

# THE TIMES

35P

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THURSDAY OCTOBER 17 1996

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My Celine, victim of a monster  
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**BEST FOR JUNIOR**

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APPOINTMENTS, 20 PAGES

# Dunblane parents to fight on

160,000 handguns are to be destroyed

By PHILIP WEBSTER  
POLITICAL EDITOR

THE parents of Dunblane last night pledged to continue their fight to have all handguns banned after the Government announced the most drastic firearm curbs yet in response to the massacre of 16 children and their teacher last March.

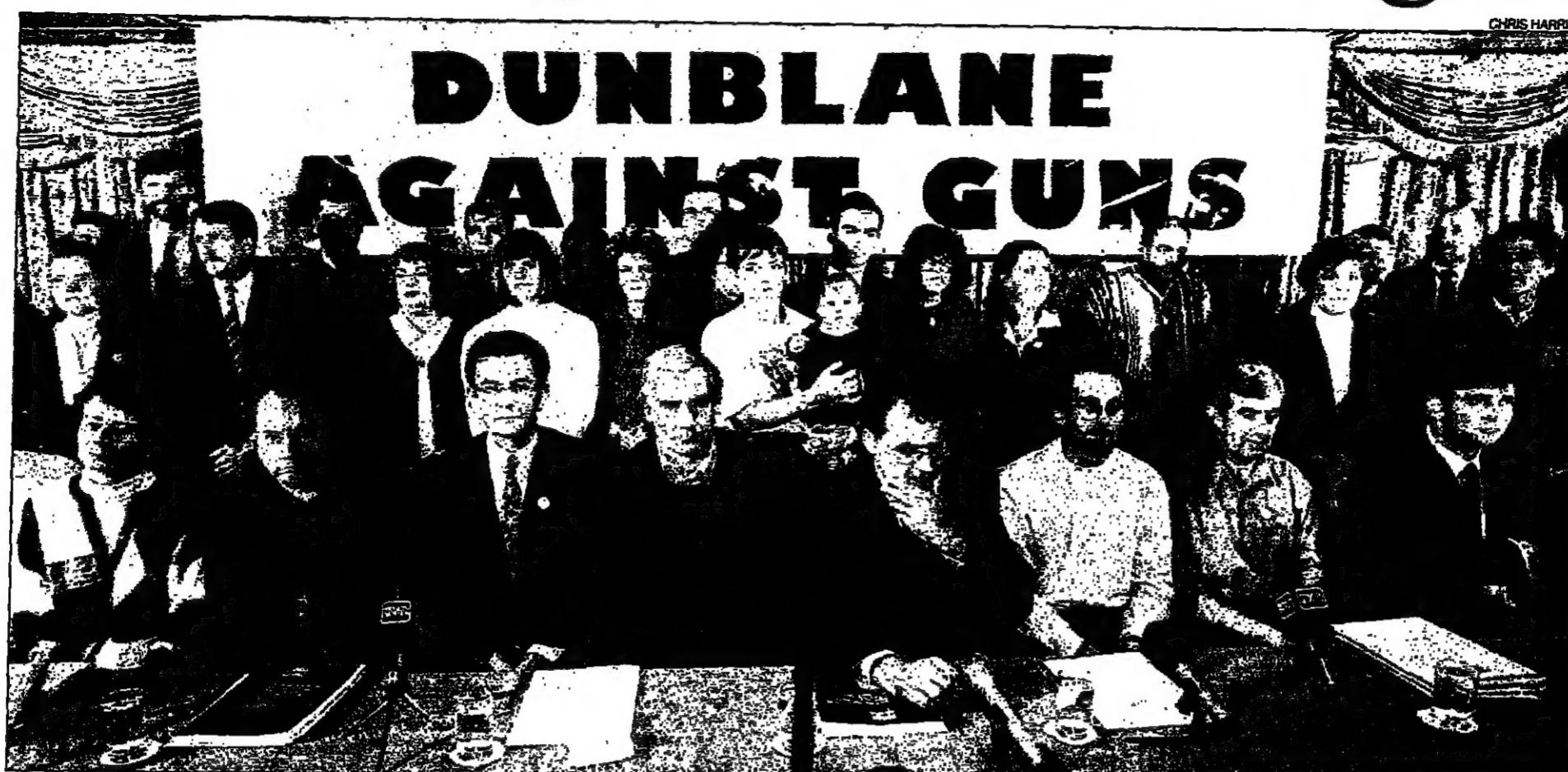
Some 160,000 of the 200,000 handguns held legally in Britain — including all automatic weapons — will have to be handed in and destroyed, but that did not satisfy the families, who insisted that there should be no compromise with public safety.

"They could have gone one step further and banned handguns completely," said Dr Mick North, whose daughter Sophie was among those killed by Thomas Hamilton.

Michael Howard, who said the Government's plans would give Britain some of the toughest gun control laws in the world, was also criticised by some Tory MPs who believed that he had gone too far, and by the gun industry, which faces ruin. More than 3,000 clubs could be put at risk, a quarter of the 2,100 gun dealers in the country could close and few of the 2,500 clubs are likely to survive.

Under the Government's proposals, owners who surrender their guns will receive an average of £150 compensation per weapon, at a cost to the Government of about £24 million. The 40,000 smaller guns that will remain legal will have to be kept at gun clubs which will have to be turned into fortresses to remain in operation.

The proposals go beyond the measures recommended by Lord Cullen in his 174-page report on the massacre, which prompted the resignation yesterday of the senior policeman who renewed Thomas Hamilton's gun licence. Douglas McMurdo, the Assistant Inspector of Constabulary for Scotland, who as Deputy Chief Constable of Central Scotland was one of the first



Families of children murdered in Dunblane announce that they will fight on for a ban on all handguns. Below: Gwen Mayor and pupils of primary one, 16 of whom died

on the scene on March 13, was singled out for criticism in the report, which focused on the force's handling of firearms certificates and the "unacceptable" mistakes it made on the day of the shootings when some families had to wait for five hours to learn that their children had been killed.

Mr McMurdo said yesterday that he was resigning with great sadness. The tragedy had been at the forefront of his mind for seven months, but he still firmly believed that the decisions he had taken were the only ones available to him.

Other measures include a ban, except for deer shooting, on the use of expanding or dum-dum ammunition; severe new restrictions on mail-order purchases; a new system requiring firearms applicants to provide two references; and a new power to allow a chief officer to revoke a firearms certificate if he feels the gun owner does not have a good reason for possessing it.

In addition, there will be a new requirement for all handgun shooters to obtain a firearms certificate, ending the



present system under which a person without a certificate can shoot at an approved club. Gun clubs will also be required to inform the police when a certificate holder ceases to be a member or has not attended a meeting for a year.

There will also be a new offence of failing to notify the police whenever a firearm or shotgun was sold, transferred, deactivated or destroyed and a ban on the sale of guns through the post.

Dismayed gun enthusiasts said last night the Govern-

ment plans would handicap British competitors in a sport where Britain had long succeeded. They claimed the ban would do nothing to prevent another Dunblane and would lead to the closure of hundreds of businesses and the loss of thousands of jobs.

They were further angered by the initial compensation package which does not yet include any planned payment to dealers, importers, wholesalers or clubs who have stocks or cannot meet the new safety requirements.

As expected, Labour announced that it would vote for a total ban when the legislation comes before the Commons next month. At least four Conservatives have said that they will join them and up to eight more may also defy the Government, which is unlikely to grant a free vote on the issue. The Liberal Democrats are generally supportive of the

Government's stance, but have not declared their hand, and the vote is certain to be tight.

In the Commons yesterday, the former Cabinet minister David Mellor was cheered by Labour and heckled by his own side when he said "the game is up for handguns now".

Labour meanwhile called for the closure of the House of Commons shooting club — one of the few in the country that can already meet the strict security rules outlined by the Government yesterday.

Matthew Parris, page 2  
Cullen report and reaction, pages 4 and 5  
Magnus Linklater, page 22  
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Where life can never return to normal

By MAGNUS LINKLATER

WAITING for Cullen has been the watchword in Dunblane for so long that there was a sense almost of disbelief yesterday when the report was finally published. "Is that really it?" said a shopper, turning to hear the news. "Is that the end of it?"

The answer, sadly, is no. For some there was a weary acknowledgement that it would take more than Lord Cullen's findings to draw a line under the nightmare that Dunblane has been living with since March. For others, still coping with their grief, the report was simply another milestone along a troubled road with no clear end in sight.

But for the parents of murdered children, the bereaved families and the wounded teachers who have formed the potent group Dunblane Against Guns, it marked the beginning of a new and determined campaign. Initially it will be aimed at securing the outright ban of all handguns — including the .22 weapons that the Government is still prepared to sanction — but it might culminate in something even more ambitious.

There was talk yesterday about a total ban on all privately owned guns in Britain. "It needs more thought and it has practical problems," one parent said, "but ultimately we must ensure the safety of the public from all guns."

Ann Pearson, the articulate spokeswoman of the Snowdrop Campaign, said she was concentrating only on persuading the Government to go one step further and ban all handguns. "This is a compromise,"

*Continued on page 2, col 4*

## Libel case order to pulp Venables book

By JASON NISSE

A HIGH Court judge will order today that all unsold copies of Terry Venables's autobiography be pulped as part of a settlement of the libel action against the former England football manager by Alan Sugar, chairman of Tottenham Hotspur.

Mr Venables and his publishers, Michael Joseph, are paying £100,000 in damages



"How do I know you're not having a hotel tryst with a Czech model?"

Ousted chief is awarded £3m

A court has awarded John Clark, who was ousted as chief executive of the business services group BET, more than £3 million in compensation. Mr Clark, 55, had been willing to settle for a third of the sum. The ruling is likely to influence future cases involving executive pay. Page 27

Euro loophole

The European Commission

approved a scheme for stiff

penalties against states which

run high budget deficits inside monetary union but left open a loophole. Page 13

## Gaddafi hires British firm to spruce up his image

By ANDREW PIERCE, POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

A BRITISH political lobbying company has been hired to improve Libya's image and end its international isolation.

The disclosure of the award of the contract to GJW International, only weeks after the latest "cash-for-questions" affair, will cause further controversy about the activities of lobbyists. The company is considering inviting ministers to visit Libya in an effort to boost trade links.

Libya, the subject of widespread United Nations trade sanctions since the Lockerbie bombing in 1988, approached several British lobbyists. GJW International, part of the London-based GJW Government Relations, won the contract, which is reputed to be worth a six-figure sum.

Andrew Gifford, the chief executive and a former adviser to Sir David Steel, clinched the deal after flying to Tripoli this year to meet senior members of the Libyan Government. He denied he had met Colonel Gaddafi. Wilf Weeks, chairman of GJW, who is a former political adviser to Sir Edward Venables in 1993.

Mr Venables still has one case outstanding against Spurs, an unfair dismissal claim being brought by Edemote, a company Mr Venables used for personal business dealings, but which has collapsed. Page 13

Diplomatic relations between Britain and Tripoli

were severed by Baroness Thatcher in 1988 after Constitu-

tive Yvonne Fletcher was killed

by a shot from the Libyan People's Bureau in London.

The UN sanctions were imposed after Libya refused to surrender two men suspected of carrying out the Lockerbie bombing, which killed 270 people. Libya has refused permission for the two men to stand trial in Britain.

The UN sanctions include a ban on the supply of arms, aviation-related equipment and a range of oil industry equipment, and a freeze on Libyan foreign assets. Sir Nicholas Bonson, a Foreign Office minister, repeated in a Commons debate this year that the sanctions had to stay because of Colonel Gaddafi's "support for terrorism and his aggression against the West".

GJW is paid by the Libyan Government to monitor press and diplomatic comment in Britain and to suggest ways of improving the country's standing with Government and business.

Mr Weeks, who said that he suspected people "might make mischief" out of the contract, said: "It is for six months. It will be reviewed. I had hoped it would be renewed. It probably won't be now."

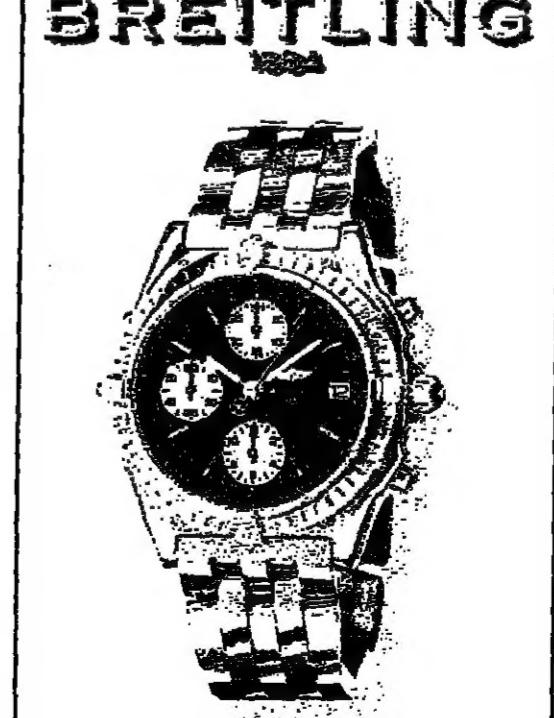
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# United in grief and in inter-party sniping

**O**n sombre occasions such as the statement on Lord Cullen's report, a parliamentary sketch-writer well knows what is expected of him: an account which describes a hushed chamber packed, subdued, MPs "grim-faced" and "united in grief".

The impression to be conveyed is that on these occasions our Members of Parliament are heedless of advantage, intent only on what is best for the country. We will say that such occasions show "the House at its best".

There is an element of wishful thinking in this. Though it would be possible, without obvious untruth, to

offer such an account of yesterday's proceedings, it would not be the whole truth. No MP is inhuman; but most keep an eye on party advantage. They know their opponents will, yesterday's proceedings dignified and principled as in part they were, did not lack that undercutting.

The chamber was not packed. Twice as many attend Budgets. There were 80 MPs on the Tory benches and a total of 108 opposition MPs. There are 650 MPs at Westminster.

Nobody who listened to Michael Forsyth could doubt his sincerity over Dunblane. But I also noted that his statement took an early reprimand

**MATTHEW PARRIS**  
POLITICAL SKETCH

sal against the Labour Party, which had made an address by Anne Pearson of the Snowdrop campaign a highlight of its conference at Blackpool. The party used the opportunity to announce its response to Dunblane in advance of Lord Cullen's report.

That report, said Forsyth, had been ready at the end of September. "But I received a letter from the Hon Member for Hamilton [George Robertson] saying it would be wrong for the report to be published during any one of the party

conferences". So, with Labour and Liberal Democrat approval, I asked Lord Cullen to delay submitting his report to me until Monday 14 October. The implied charge was clear: Labour had stolen an early advantage.

Nobody who listened to Mr

Robertson's reply could doubt the strength or sincerity of his feelings either. He thanked Mr Forsyth warmly for his consideration towards him on visits to Dunblane. "Two fathers, united in grief, members of the human family." But

Mr Robertson took a small but calculated swipe at the Tories. He congratulated them on the "shift in the Government's position" towards his own party's position on the Cullen recommendations.

This rankled with Forsyth. There was no shift, he said. The report had been issued only on Monday, the Government's position decided on Tuesday. It had taken no previous position. This was technically true.

The Liberal Democrats' Jim Wallace then discreetly let us know that the Government's additions to Cullen's proposals to Dunblane were "more in line with our own submissions".

Far from being the House

at its best, there is something disturbing about these occasions. Real emotions are interleaved with covert grabs for political advantage, and always with an eye on the populace. An atmosphere in which a minister can suggest that those recruiting voluntary workers might be informed by the police not only of past convictions, but also of prosecutions contemplated but never proceeded with, and receive no more inquisitive a response than "hear, hear", is the House at its most alarming.

□ Yesterday's sketch construed John Major as implying that Tony Blair's son is privately educated. He is not, nor did Mr Major imply it.

ANDRE CAMARA

## Queen to take control of royal travel budget

BY ALAN HAMILTON

THE Queen is to cut costs by assuming direct financial control of the Royal Family's travel arrangements. She will take over from the two government departments which currently fund and run the Royal Squadron of aircraft and the royal train, and will be looking for substantial savings.

Although the initiative has come from the Queen herself, it reflects continuing public disquiet about the cost of monarchy, and pressure for the Buckingham Palace accounts to be more open to public inspection.

From next April, if Parliament approves, Buckingham Palace will be paid an annual block grant by the Department of Transport and will be left to run its own transport affairs. A detailed report and balance sheet will be published each year, and the accounts scrutinised regularly by the National Audit Office.

Palace sources said that the move, announced by the Prime Minister in a Commons written answer yesterday, would entail no additional cost to taxpayers and was likely to lead to significant savings in the long term without compromising national prestige, safety or security. Since the Queen took over direct responsibility for running the royal palaces through a grant-in-aid from the Department of National Heritage she has cut costs by a quarter over five years.

Royal travel currently costs £9 million a year, most of it

paid by the Ministry of Defence to operate what used to be known as the Queen's Flight — three BAe 146 aircraft and several helicopters — and the rest by the Department of Transport for the royal train.

Funding also comes from the Foreign Office if members of the Royal Family travel on state business abroad.

But the figure reflects running costs, not capital expenditure, and various peripheral items. The last substantial capital expenditure was in 1991, when the MoD paid £14 million for an additional 146 aircraft, taking total capital expenditure on aircraft since 1986 to £40 million.

The new arrangements do not cover the Royal Yacht Britannia, which is paid for by the Ministry of Defence.

The Queen's initiative is intended to cut costs

and which will be decommissioned next year. Proposals for a replacement are being considered by the Cabinet Office; a yacht funded by private industry is one possibility.

Running the travel budget will be the responsibility of Michael Peat, a former City accountant who is Keeper of the Privy Purse and the Palace's director of finance. Since he arrived at his post in 1991 he has earned a reputation throughout the Royal Household as an unstinting enemy of unnecessary spending.

The Palace said last night that the arrangements had followed long-term discussions by the Way Ahead Group, the informal gathering of the Royal Family and their senior advisers which meets twice a year to review strategic planning. Details are believed to have been finalised when the group met at Balmoral last month, and then to have been passed to Downing Street.

According to Palace sources, the main benefit of the new scheme will be reduced cost to the taxpayer, better disclosure of how and why the money is spent, and better accountability by linking travel requirements directly to financial responsibility for them.

The Queen's financial staff are likely to look much more closely at all travel and say they will better place than in the past to decide on the most cost-effective means of getting members of the Royal Family to their engagements.

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'We survive more than we live,' says father as lorry driver is jailed for life

## Pitiless murderer haunts thoughts of French family

BY STAFF REPORTER

THE father of Celine Figard spoke last night of the daughter he had lost to an 'imbecile' killer. After Stuart Morgan, 37, was sentenced to life imprisonment for murdering the 19-year-old French student, Bernard Figard said he could not understand how the lorry driver could live with his crime.

"I can't believe he actually pleaded not guilty, but inside of him he knows what he did. It didn't seem to move him or affect him at all when he heard the graphic descriptions of Celine's ordeal."

He looked so detached from reality as if he was a total stranger who didn't really belong there. I just felt sickened by his behaviour."

"When I first laid eyes on him in May he just had a blank look on his face and he

didn't seem to feel anything or show any remorse. He was just cold."

"I never really thought that Morgan could walk away from this, but my real fear throughout the case was that he may have pleaded insanity or diminished responsibility. That would have been all too easy for him."

"It is beyond my comprehension how a man who has committed such a horrible crime in a moment of madness could have been stupid enough not to get rid of the evidence. Far from that, this monstrous idiot kept my daughter's dead body in the back of his truck with him. What kind of imbecile creature is he?"

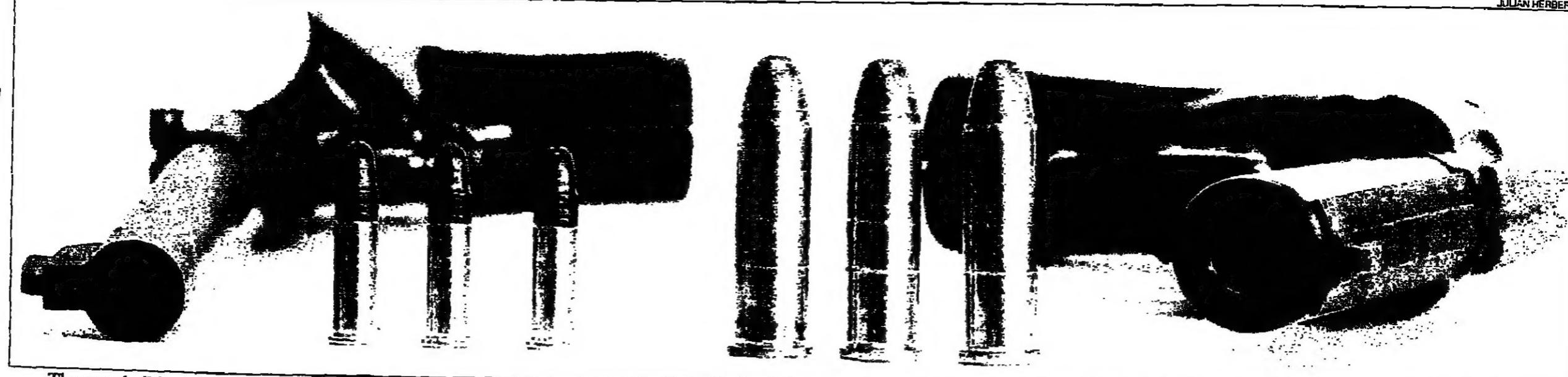
"Being there was like sharing our daughter's Calvary. The police did tell us everything, but it was still very hard to see Celine's belongings and to listen to the details of how she died. I felt like I was going through Celine's ordeal all over again myself."

He added that the family home in France was filled with memories. "Celine is everywhere and nowhere at the same time. Everything we do and everywhere we go we think of our daughter. The drawings she did when she was a little girl, the gifts she bought us when she was a child and teenager and all the little things that before we

had received support, but also hate mail. "But despite all this support and friendship offered from strangers we still get hate mail. These people don't even have the courage to sign their letters but we have letters from all over France and even from Great Britain."</p



Schools  
must not  
be turned  
into little  
fortresses  
SECURITY



The permissible and the banned: a .22 Webley single shot target pistol would be allowed within the secure confines of a gun club; the .38 Smith & Wesson would be banned for anyone but professionals

## Club enthusiasts say rules will stop British Olympic teams

BRITAIN'S gun-club enthusiasts last night angrily denied that the Government's proposals would eliminate the "gun culture" responsible for the Dunblane tragedy.

The British Shooting Sports Council, an umbrella group for the sport, described the ministerial proposals as a "disappointment" and insisted that they would play no part in curbing violent crime.

Pat Johnson, the secretary of the group, said that many of the country's 2,500 clubs may have to close either because they are pistol-only clubs or they will find the new regulations too expensive. He issued a warning that many clubs, enthusiasts, and manufacturers may demand financial compensation.

"The main effect of the Government's proposal will be to make Britain the only country in the world unable to compete in a sport where we have for generations achieved success," Mr Johnson said.

"Our Olympic pistol shooter in Atlanta required a semi-automatic pistol to compete in her event. It will even exclude us from our own Commonwealth Games. The decision may put at risk Manchester's bid to host the Games."

"Lord Cullen highlighted failures of the system of licensing and the council supports all the forms that will strengthen the controls which prevent the wrong person from being licensed to hold a gun."

However, Mr Johnson said: "Parliament has an honorable tradition of protecting the rights of legitimate minorities against passing populist prejudices. Shooters have the same entitlement to their protection as any other sportsmen or any other minority. We expect to be given it."

Mr Johnson said it was a shame the government had been unable to hold the line drawn in the sand by Lord Cullen but had decided to go further. He suggested that the two main political parties had been vying with each other for

### REACTION

Reports by  
Richard Ford,  
Stewart Tindall,  
Michael Evans,  
Alice Thomson and  
James Landale

several weeks to curry political favour. It was unlikely in that atmosphere that the gun lobby would receive a fair hearing.

Carol Page, an Olympic competitor who used semi-automatic weapons in Atlanta, said shooting was the second largest participation sport after football. She said that under the Government's proposals it would be enormously difficult for Olympic hopefuls to achieve the required standard.

She suggested that the gun lobby had been punished by the sins of Thomas Hamilton and insisted that it was not gun-club enthusiasts who were to blame for the tragedy.

The Bisley firing ranges in Surrey, where about 30 gun clubs are based, now face an uncertain future. Geoff Doe, 52, a member of the Worlestone Rifle and Pistol Club in Surrey, and development officer for the National Small Bore Rifle Association, which represents the interests of thousands of rifle and handgun enthusiasts, said: "It is pure, raw emotion. Taking pistols away from their legitimate owners will not stop another Hungerford or Dunblane."

At Bisley, Mr Doe said that even if small clubs could afford increased security to store .22 weapons, it would not stop determined criminals. He knew of one case where a crane was used to smash a wall so that the gun safe could be stolen. Mr Woodall said his club, Wandsworth, which charges about £50 a year, tried simply to cover its costs. "We will have to win the National Lottery," he said.

Mr Johnson said it was a shame the government had been unable to hold the line drawn in the sand by Lord Cullen but had decided to go further. He suggested that the two main political parties had been vying with each other for

## Legal .22 can still be lethal at short range

THE ban on most handguns will remove from lawful ownership a long list of lethal weapons but the .22 pistol, which can kill at short range, is to remain a licensed weapon.

"Just because it's a small bullet doesn't mean it's not lethal," Ian Hogg, former editor of *Jane's Infantry Weapons*, said yesterday after the government announcement on the banning of all handguns above .22 calibre.

Mr Hogg said the present standard ammunition used by Nato forces was .223 in, not much larger than the .22 in, although it was for a rifle, not a handgun, and was therefore a much more powerful weapon.

In terms of lethality, the larger the bullet, the greater the damage suffered by a shooting victim. A 9mm round fired at a limb, for example, could have devastating consequences leading to death from loss of blood, whereas a .22 in bullet might cause only minor injury.

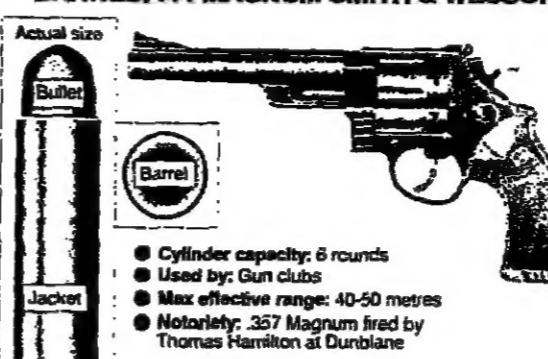
However, a .22 bullet fired accurately at a vulnerable part of the body from close range could kill, Mr Hogg said. A number of assassinations have involved the firing of .22 calibre weapons. Robert Kennedy, the brother of President John Kennedy, was shot dead by Sirhan Sirhan in 1968 with a .22 Iver Johnson revolver. President Reagan and his press secretary were shot at close range with a .22 calibre pistol by John Hinckley in 1981.

Most recently, Yitzhak Rabin, the former Israeli Prime Minister, was assassinated in November last year after being shot at close range with a .22 calibre pistol.

The more powerful pistols and revolvers banned by the Government yesterday include the 9mm Browning, which will now be used legitimately only by the Armed Forces and the police. Capable of rapid-firing 13 rounds, it is acknowledged to be one of the most effective guns. Other 9mm guns include the Luger, Beretta and Walther P28.

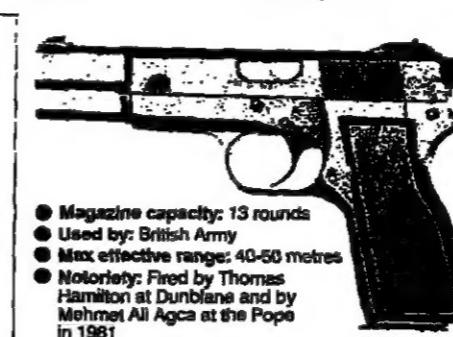
Other guns facing the blanket ban include the most

### BANNED: .44 MAGNUM SMITH & WESSON



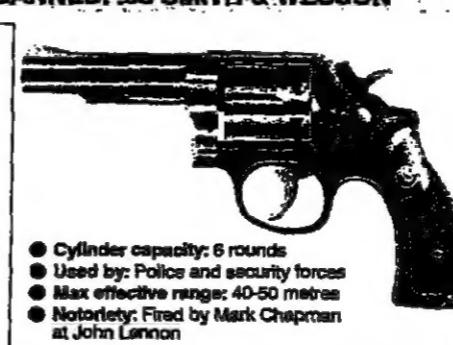
- Cylinder capacity: 6 rounds
- Used by: Gun clubs
- Max effective range: 40-50 metres
- Notability: Fired by Thomas Hamilton at Dunblane

### BANNED: 9mm BROWNING



- Magazine capacity: 13 rounds
- Used by: British Army
- Max effective range: 40-50 metres
- Notability: Fired by Thomas Hamilton at Dunblane and by Mohamed Ali Aga at the Pope in 1981

### BANNED: .38 SMITH & WESSON



- Cylinder capacity: 6 rounds
- Used by: Police and security forces
- Max effective range: 40-50 metres
- Notability: Fired by Mark Chapman at John Lennon

### RESTRICTED: .22 BERETTA



- Magazine capacity: 8 rounds
- Used by: Gun clubs
- Max effective range: 20 metres
- Notability: Yitzhak Rabin and Robert Kennedy killed by .22 pistol

popular weapon used by gun clubs, the .38 calibre, which is made by all the recognised manufacturers, such as Smith & Wesson and Colt. John Lennon was assassinated in 1980 by a .38 special.

The ban will also affect all Magnum guns, such as the .357 and the .44 and .41, described by Mr Hogg as the "macho gun used by the baseball cap and beer belly brigade" and made famous by

Clint Eastwood in Hollywood's *Dirty Harry* films. James Bond initially had the 6.35mm Beretta and later changed to a 7.65mm Beretta.

Another .38 calibre gun that will be banned is the Webley service revolver, the main sidearm in the British Armed Forces for many years, although it was largely replaced by the Browning. The IRA is known to have a stock of Webley revolvers.

## Police criticised for allowing Hamilton to own handguns

### LICENSING

LORD CULLEN is highly critical of the way central Scotland Police gave Thomas Hamilton permission to hold more than one handgun of the same calibre.

His report says that the reasons given and accepted for Hamilton being authorised to do so were unsatisfactory. His authority to own firearms and obtain ammunition had been renewed without inquiry despite his misuse of the weapons. The underlying reason for this state was the unsatisfactory way in which official guidance to police was expressed. Although Hamilton's fitness to be trusted with a firearm was challenged after an incident at a summer camp, no action was taken.

Lord Cullen says Douglas McMurdo, then Deputy Chief Constable, should have made further inquiries after concerns were expressed by junior officers about the incident.

"On balance there was a case for revocation [of the certificate] which should have been acted upon. The same considerations should have led in any event to the refusal of Hamilton's subsequent applications for renewal of his firearms certificate."

Hamilton was granted a firearms certificate in February 1977; his reason was that he was a target-shooter at a shooting club. At the time of his death he held more than one firearm of the same calibre, both pistols and revolvers but Lord Cullen is critical of a decision in 1986 to allow Hamilton to acquire a second 9mm pistol.

The reasons given were that he was "active in competition shooting throughout the country". But Lord Cullen says the statement was an exaggeration because of the scale of his purchase of 9mm ammunition in the preceding years. There was no evidence that he was engaged in competition shooting to any significant extent "let alone throughout the country".

In 1992 he was given permission to acquire a second .357 revolver but the report says there is no satisfactory evidence that Hamilton was



McMurdo: resigned his post yesterday

engaged in competitive shooting. "This does not inspire me with confidence that at least in the case of Thomas Hamilton there was good reason for the authority for additional handguns of the same calibre."

The report adds: "Thomas Hamilton's authority to hold and acquire or purchase ammunition was renewed in 1992 and 1995 where, according to the purchases recorded on his certificate, he was not shooting to any significant extent."

Mr McMurdo received information about Hamilton's display of firearms to a family but decided no action should be taken. The information was not put in a firearms file relating to Hamilton although it should have been and it was not entered in criminal intelligence records.

A second warning in November 1991 in which a detective sergeant warned that Hamilton was an unsavoury character and unstable was also not entered in the firearms file though it should have been. The copy was not put in criminal intelligence records.

The report says Mr McMurdo had difficulty in envisaging cases in which a person could be shown to be "unfit" to be entrusted with a firearm where there was no previous criminal conviction or pending case. Lord Cullen says that Mr McMurdo "adopted an unduly narrow approach in which he paid not much more than lip-service to the idea that a person could be 'unfit' in the absence of a conviction or pending criminal case."

## Labour MPs call for closure of basement range

LABOUR MPs last night put down a motion calling for MPs to set an example and close the Palace of Westminster rifle range. But members of the House of Commons shooting club are adamant it should continue.

The 25-yard range, which lies deep in the bowels of the House of Lords, lies behind a securely locked door with a sign that declares: "Authorised personnel only. Contact control engineers prior to access." There are no directions to the club and it is extremely difficult to find. Members must have a full Westminster security pass and pay a subscription of £15 a year.

Most of the weapons used are .22-calibre single-shot rifles. Recently, however, some .22-calibre and .38-calibre pistols have been introduced. All weapons used are kept on the premises in a securely locked armoury.

It is probably one of the few clubs that will meet the new strict government criteria for shooting ranges. But a growing number of MPs on both sides say it is an embarrassment. Several women MPs are lobbying hard to make the space into a creche.

Tony Banks, MP for New-

### WESTMINSTER

ham North West, who yesterday put forward the motion to close the club, said: "If these MPs carry on using the club, at the least it will be considered insensitive and at the worst arrogant and dangerous. We don't get many opportunities to set an example and this should be one of them."

A policeman in the Lords yesterday said: "The club will be back. MPs use it every day and one evening a week. They use it to let off steam."

Unlike other Westminster sports clubs, the members of the shooting club are not listed anywhere but at least 50 of exist. The chairman is Michael Colvin, MP for Romsey and Waterside. Despite having refrained from shooting yesterday, they say they will fight to keep the range going.

No one would defend the club publicly but one Tory member in the Lords said: "The shooting is highly regulated and the range is checked regularly by Home Office inspectors." He added: "This range has been going since 1916, since the First World War, we can't just get rid of it in this knee-jerk way."

## Emotion must not sweep MPs into framing bad law

### RIDDELL ON POLITICS

Parliament is likely to take the right decision over banning handguns, but is reaching it in an overhasty way. There is a strong case for banning guns that have the most tenuous sporting justification. The rationalisations of the gun lobby are tortuous and unconvincing. A clear-cut ban is likely to isolate illegal holders of guns more effectively than the ban itself.

The opposition parties have already said they will allow a free vote, though the Government will whip its MPs. A number of urban Tories, including Mr Mellor, Robert Hughes and Hugh Dykes, have said they support a total ban. Some rural Tories and allies of the gun lobby, such as Henry Bellingham, John Carlisle and Edward Leigh, were critical of the Government for already having gone beyond Lord Cullen's recommendations.

A tide of emotion leads to strong demands for action, and the Government with Opposition support pushes legislation through Parliament. Enthusiasts for instant action should first read the report of the Hansard Society Commission on *The Legislative Process*, published four years ago. This warned about the perils of ill-considered legislation, notably the Dangerous Dogs Act of 1991 which went from publication to Royal Assent in six weeks, having gone through the Commons in a single day. Only the Lords gave the measure even semi-adequate consideration. But that law is widely seen as flawed.

There has, of course, already been a wider debate about tighter gun controls, not only in the Cullen report but in the enquiry by the Home Affairs Select Committee in the summer. But since the conclusions of both have been rejected, there is a case for at least a pause to consider the practical implications of the alternatives put forward by the Government and the Opposition.

Commons procedures already allow for special standing committees to question witnesses on details of legislation.

## Actors and vets will be allowed to keep weapons

### EXEMPTIONS

the British Equine Veterinary Association, said: "Barbiturates can be used to put down horses, but because of the drug residues the carcass cannot then be used by hunt kennels to feed their hounds, which is the normal means of disposal, and has to be expensively cremated."

The shotguns used by gamekeepers and kept by many farmers are excluded because handguns are defined as pistols or revolvers designed to be held and fired using one hand only.

A spokeswoman for the British Veterinary Association, representing 112,000 mainly game and clay pigeon shooters, said: "The vast majority of our members will be unaffected, but there will be some farmers and gamekeepers who keep pistols for close-quarter dispatch of wounded animals."

He added: "As a matter of principle, we regard it as extremely illogical that someone who is deemed an appropriate person to own one type of gun should be prohibited from holding another type of weapon."

Richard Jones, president of

'As a picture it is disappointing. It is of a standard of a nine-year-old boy'

## 'Childish' Hitler painting fetches £2,500 at auction

BY DALYA ALBERGE, ARTS CORRESPONDENT

A WATERCOLOUR of Vienna attributed to Hitler was auctioned yesterday for £2,500, almost three times the estimate. International auctioneers refuse to touch works connected to the Nazis but the painting, signed A. Hitler and dated 1911, was sold by a Lincolnshire firm.

The picture, 10in by 14½in, shows figures scurrying across a square. It was identified as a Hitler watercolour because of its poor quality. Robert Horner, an auctioneer and salesroom manager for Dickinson, Davy and Markham, of Brigg, said: 'As a painting it is very disappointing. It is of a standard of my nine-year-old son.'

It was bought by Michelle Donaldson, an accounts and finance lecturer at North Lindsey College of Technology, Scunthorpe, on behalf of her father, a foundry owner, who is in America.

Jonathan Friend, of Hull Reform Synagogue, said: 'It is distasteful that such paintings by Adolf Hitler are still available. No good can come from them and it is better that they are not around.'

As far as the art market is concerned, the only thing in



Hitler was embittered by academy rejections

the picture's favour is the artist's name. Beyond that it has little going for it. The painting is clumsy and two-dimensional and the composition, brushwork and imagery are as awkward and lacking in sensitivity as they are crude and lifeless. It illustrates perfectly why Hitler was turned down by Austria's Academy of Fine Arts.

Another auctioneer at the sale, Graham Paddison, said that it was the lack of quality

that enabled them to identify Hitler's hand. He said that confirmation had come from a specialist in Third Reich and Nazi items, Michael Mackintosh. The type of paper was contemporary with the date.

The watercolour was sold with Third Reich memorabilia, including one of the funeral wreaths given by Hitler to the widows of party officials. Mr Paddison said that the objects were collected from an apartment in Hamburg in 1945 by the seller.

The picture was painted after Hitler's repeated rejection from the Vienna academy, the records of which show that his drawings were dismissed as 'inadequate'. An embittered Hitler, it is said, told a companion that the academy should be blown up.

Historians have speculated on the course that history might have taken if he had been accepted.

Philip Saunders, a leading specialist in art and the war years, said: 'These works are more interesting because of who painted them. I'm sure of that 100 per cent.' He added that they had a 'curio interest' rather than an artistic interest' and that they were pur-



The watercolour of a Vienna square, dated 1911. Its lack of quality helped the auctioneers to identify the artist

chased by collectors of memorabilia rather than collectors of art. German museums sought them for their historical interest.

Commenting on the difficulties of identifying Hitler's style, he said: 'You have to rely on provenance, although you also have to prove the provenance.'

Such works appear on the market every so often. In 1991, two of Hitler's floral images were offered at a Yorkshire

auction house and last year a watercolour was sold to an American for £9,500.

Mr Paddison said that his firm had since been offered another half a dozen Hitler watercolours: 'We often sell Nazi and Third Reich items, mainly bayonets, daggers, flags and uniforms. Nobody condones what went on, but it is a collecting field in its own right. We're just the middlemen who seem to get into trouble.'

Miss Donaldson said: 'My dad told me he wanted it and, because he's in America, I came along for him. It's the first time I've ever been to an auction, or bid for a lot. But I was determined to get it.'

'I was so nervous as the price went up and didn't know how much I was going to pay for it. He will be happy. I think he would have been upset if it had gone to someone else.'

Hitler's interest in art was to

grow into an obsession for collecting it. His personal curator corresponded with his personal assistant almost daily and in minute detail about works Hitler that wished to acquire.

Thousands of works were collected for Hitler's proposed museum in Linz, Austria, which he had planned to be the largest in the world.

Nazi treasures, page 18

## Gladiators star fined for attack on former husband

BY A STAFF REPORTER

THE former Gladiators star Phoenix was sentenced to 150 hours of community service yesterday for beating up her ex-husband over custody of their son.

Sandy Young, a kickboxer who once held the title Bodybuilding Miss UK, was told to pay compensation of £125 at the rate of £10 a week. Judge Mott, sitting at Worcester Crown Court, also sentenced Young's former boyfriend, Mark Eustace, 28, to 80 hours' community service and told him to pay £75 compensation for his part in the attack.

At a previous hearing, Wolverhampton Crown Court was told that Young launched an attack of "wanton violence and revenge" on Stephen Young, her ex-husband, which left him with a broken ankle. She and Eustace had previously pleaded guilty to charges of assault.

Tony Storey, for the prosecution, said: "Mrs Young went to her ex-husband's house in a high temper, being aggressive and hostile." A fight had broken out between the two in which "both were injured to some extent".

Once the violence stopped, Sandra Young called to Mr Eustace who had been remaining out of sight. He delivered a blow as a result of which Mr Young fell to the ground. Once on the ground both kicked out at Mr Young.

It was only when Mr Young's girlfriend, Elsa Jones, came into the room that Eustace, a metal worker, "came to his senses" and "tried to stop his co-accused from continuing her attack on Mr Young and Miss Jones".

Young, 31, who lives with her 11-year-old son, was arrested on November 24 last year, three weeks after the attack. She was one of the first Gladiators in the LWT show and gave up her job at a chemist in Dudley, West Midlands, after being hounded by autograph hunters.

She was dropped from the programme in late 1992 for not coming up to scratch. She took up bodybuilding after the birth of her son, Lee. A Gladiators spokesman said yesterday: "She simply didn't have the strength needed to compete in the show."

The programme is hosted by John Fashanu and Ulrika Jonsson and filmed at Birmingham's National Indoor Arena and has become cult viewing for millions.

After the case Young said: "The whole truth has not come out and I am very upset about it. What was said in court and in the papers was complete fabrication."

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## Heirlooms of Parker Bowles sell for £30,000

BY ALAN HAMILTON

CAMILLA Parker Bowles found herself £30,000 better off last night after selling a collection of 19th-century family heirlooms connected with royal mistress of an earlier age.

The vases, urns, bowls and candlesticks made from the floorspar mineral commonly known as Derbyshire blue John had been inherited by Mrs Parker Bowles from her maternal grandmother, Sophie Cubitt, eldest daughter of Alice Keppel, mistress of Edward VII.

Nine of the 12 lots offered at Christie's South Kensington were bought over the telephone by Avocato Memmo, an American specialist collector of blue John ware. Two lots went to other telephone bidders, while the



Parker Bowles clearly identified as seller

top individual price of £2,050, for an 11in-high ornamental urn, went to another anonymous buyer.

Mrs Parker Bowles was not present to watch brisk telephone bidding push the collection to twice the overall estimate. One George III-style bowl, valued at not more than £400, went for £1,500.

She apparently had no objection to being identified in the sale catalogue, which further stated clearly from whom the collection had been inherited.

The programme is hosted by John Fashanu and Ulrika Jonsson and filmed at Birmingham's National Indoor Arena and has become cult viewing for millions.

After the case Young said: "The whole truth has not come out and I am very upset about it. What was said in court and in the papers was complete fabrication."

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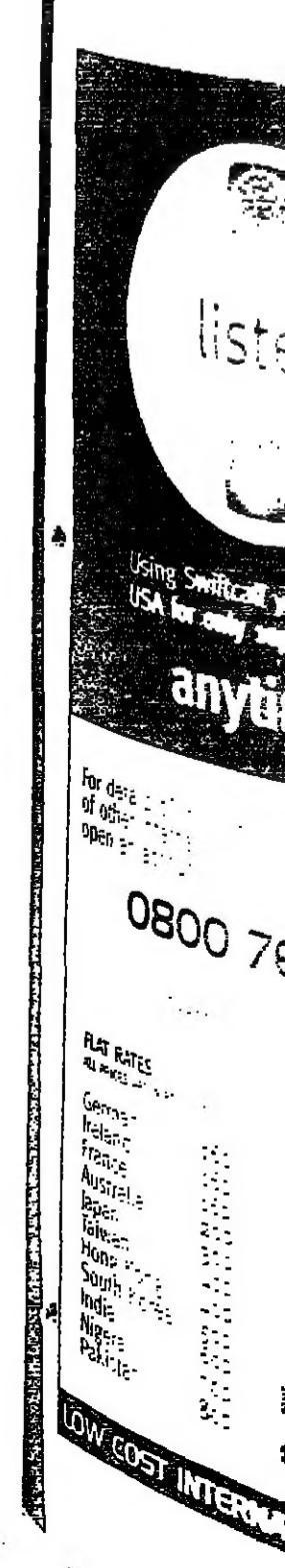
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THE TIMES THURSDAY OCTOBER 17 1996

HOME NEWS 7

# First night of cliffhanger swept along by blue-rinse tidal wave

Sir Cliff Richard's *Heathcliff*, which opened in Birmingham's National Indoor Arena last night, is as review-proof as any new musical will ever be. Advance sales top £5.5 million. More than a hundred nights of its 126-night British tour are already sold out. And lots proffered first-night tickets at up to ten times their face value to the hundreds of fans — known as "cliffhangers" in the trade — who hit Birmingham like a blue-rinse tidal wave yesterday.

For their part, the fans outside the hall yesterday raved about the show even before the curtain rose. "The album already makes me cry; it's the best thing Cliff has ever done," said Susan Wilton, who had travelled from Frome, Somerset, with her daughters. "The newspapers have always hated Cliff because he's nice and also successful." Gillian Parkinson, from Coventry, added, "He's still got the best voice and the best looks in pop."

Jill Armstrong, 33, and Barbara Byrne, 35, did not see the show but sat outside hoping for a glimpse of Sir Cliff. They were in no doubt about his ability to deliver a hit musical. "He's wanted to do this for so long and it's his dream. I'm sure he'll do well."



*Cliff Richard has asked that his musical *Heathcliff* be given a fair chance by the critics, but his fans are already certain they are going to love it. Richard Morrison writes*

Miss Armstrong said. But as Sir Cliff launched the spectacular £3.5 million adaptation of Emily Brontë's classic novel *Wuthering Heights*, he made a plea for a little critical understanding. "I hope people just give me a fair crack of the whip," the singer said. "All I can do is do my best." He also dismissed taunts that he is too old to play the wild man of the Yorkshire moors who in the novel dies at 38. "For years people have been telling me how young I look. I am the perfect person to play a 38-year-old."

His fears of a critical mauling may be justified. The notion of this squeaky-clean British pop icon playing one of the most bitter and twisted figures in 19th-century literature has caused a certain merriment in cynical circles.

And at many points in its six-year genesis his Brontë project appeared to be withering rather than

withering. A search for the right actress to play Cathy involved an audition process almost as protracted as that for *Scarlett O'Hara*. Olivia Newton John sang the part on the *Heathcliff* album, issued last year, but at 47 was considered too mature to partner the 56-year-old Sir Cliff. Helen Hobson took the role on stage last night.

However, Sir Cliff has never lost faith in the project, which was inspired, he says, by a book that he has loved since he was a schoolboy. He has declared that *Heathcliff* will be "the pinnacle of my career", and has sunk an estimated £2 million of his own money into the project.

He has hinted that the five-month tour of *Heathcliff*, which takes in Edinburgh and Manchester before arriving at Labatt's Apollo in London next February, will be his swansong. If so, it will crown one of the most

remarkable careers in 20th-century entertainment. He has spanned five decades, achieved 13 gold discs and sung on more than 100 hit records.

Last year he rivalled Dame Vera Lynn as the prime attraction of the VE-Day celebrations. He was knighted in June shortly before he led a rain-soaked Wimbledon Centre Court crowd in a singalong medley of his hits. Anyone less like the misanthropic Heathcliff would be hard to imagine — but that is the transforming power of drama.

Sir Tim Rice was recruited to distil Brontë's turbulent tale of dark, moorside vengeance into a series of pithy pop-song lyrics. John Farrar, who supplied some of the hits for the film *Grease*, wrote the tunes. And Frank Dunlop, former director of the Edinburgh Festival, was hired to stage the epic.

Stage it in epic style he has done. His evocation of the Yorkshire moors involves 1,000 litres of smoke fluid and a hundredweight of snow in every performance, plus a technical staff of 200. Brad Jeffries, sometime choreographer for Madonna, added dance routines, including some bizarre sequences for tribal dancers. Emily Brontë unaccountably left them out of her novel.



Novel production: Cliff Richard as Heathcliff and Helen Hobson as Cathy

## Death car pair 'lied to dodge breath test'

BY A STAFF REPORTER

A COUPLE swapped seats in an effort to beat a breath test as a man hit by their car lay dying, a court was told yesterday.

Clive Berry said that his wife was behind the wheel because he feared he was over the legal alcohol limit. Simon Temple, for the prosecution, told Manchester Crown Court. In fact Angela Berry, 40, was in the passenger seat. They concocted the story after their car knocked down Keith Handley, 31, in Failsworth, Greater Manchester, in December. Mr Handley, who was crossing the road to meet his family in a pub, died the next day. Police are satisfied that the driver was not to blame.

Mr Berry, a sales manager, had drunk three or four cans of beer, Mr Temple said. He told police the following evening that he had been driving.

Mrs Berry, 40, told the jury: "The man's family were there and I was frightened they might get nasty. I said I was driving because I thought they might be more sympathetic to a woman."

Mr and Mrs Berry, of Hepworth, West Yorkshire, deny perverting the course of justice. The trial continues.

## Duke loses inheritance on routine trip to vet

BY RUSSELL JENKINS

DUKE, a Yorkshire terrier from a line of 24 champions, was mistakenly castrated on a routine visit to the vet to have its milk teeth removed.

The operation, carried out by a Royal Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals clinic in Salford, Greater Manchester, put an end to the ten-month-old puppy's chances of prolonging the line registered at the Kennel Club as Lord of Landgate. Its owner, Elaine Digby, 42, of Ashton-under-Lyne, was hoping to put the pedigree dog out to stud.

Mrs Digby said that she took Duke in for an examination five days before the operation and a vet asked her if she wanted it castrated at the same time. She said that she did not. After the operation the clinic tried to charge her £25.

The dog is said to be worth more than £200 and could have earned £100 a time in stud fees. Mrs Digby's husband, Derek, 48, said that the family had decided to give the dog away to a neighbour.

The RSPCA apologised for the error and promised to try to ensure that similar mistakes did not happen again.

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## £300m scheme to replace Bart's hospital by 2001

BY JEREMY LAURANCE, HEALTH CORRESPONDENT

BRITAIN'S oldest hospital, St Bartholomew's, will close by 2001, the chairman of the NHS trust which manages it said yesterday.

The Royal Hospitals NHS Trust, which includes Bart's, announced a £300 million scheme to build a new hospital in Whitechapel, east London, which will replace Bart's and three other hospitals. St Bartholomew's has stood on the same site in Smithfield for almost 870 years. It was founded in 1123 to care for the sick and poor of the City of London and is the only one of the original medieval hospitals occupying its original site.

There will be a new 1,100-bed hospital and a medical and dental school on the site of the Royal London Hospital, Whitechapel. It will mean the loss of 1,000 jobs and 240 beds.

Sir Derek Boorman, the trust chairman, said: "In four years' time [from the start of building], there will be no acute hospital on the Smithfield site. There will be many who will not like it but the writing has been on the wall for 98 years." The closure of Bart's was recommended in an independent report in 1992 and confirmed in 1994 by Virginia Bottomley, then Health Secretary.

Sir Derek said agreement had been reached with the Health Management Group,

general election, Bart's could still be saved.

A study of the Royal London Hospital and Bart's by the Centre for Health Economics at York University concluded that there would be only a small difference in running costs if both hospitals were retained, although the report's findings were heavily criticised by the trust.

Sir Derek said the Royal London buildings were "clapped out" and that running a trust on five sites was inefficient; defenders of Bart's were influenced more by their hearts than their heads.

The other hospitals to close are the Queen Elizabeth Hospital for Children, the London Chest Hospital and the Mile End branch of the Royal London. The new building will be built and run by the Health Management Group with clinical services managed by the trust.

Gerry Green, chief executive of the trust, said it was obvious that switching from five sites to one would need fewer staff. A thousand employees were expected to go over five years, including doctors and nurses. "We will be driven by the contracts we get and they are moving away from us as more patients are treated in hospitals in the suburbs. We are well-placed because we have a large local population."

a joint venture between the AMEC group and the Building and Property Group, to build the new hospital and lease it back to the National Health Service on a 30-year contract under the Government's private finance initiative. He declined to disclose the cost of the deal to the NHS, which is still being negotiated. Treasury approval also has to be obtained. Sir Derek said the deal would be clinched by the spring, and building would begin later next year.

If the cost proved prohibitive, or Treasury approval were withheld, beyond the



Jagger and Hall are said to be planning a divorce after he was reported spending the night with a model. A friend says it may just be "a salvo across the bows"



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## Jagger may bet millions that Hall is bluffing

BY EMMA WILKINS AND FRANCES GIBB

MICK JAGGER was working in Los Angeles on a film called *Enigma* yesterday as he tried to unravel a far greater mystery: does Jerry Hall really want a divorce?

Although Hall has consulted Anthony Julius, divorce lawyer for Diana, Princess of Wales, Jagger doubts that she will follow through her threat to leave him after 20 years together. The 53-year-old Rolling Stone, whose personal fortune exceeds £110 million, asked his London agent to fax copies of British newspaper reports that Hall wants to end their six-year marriage.

Hall, who is the mother of three of his five children, threatened to leave him in 1992 after his much-publicised affair with Carla Bruni, an Italian model. "This is a salvo across Mick's bows," a friend of Jagger's said. "Jerry has tried threatening to walk out before, but they have always got back together."

Jagger, whose production company is adapting the film from Robert Harris's counter-espionage thriller, has been enjoying himself in Hollywood in the company of Uma Thurman, an actress, and Jana Rajlich, a Czech model. Reports that Rajlich spent the night with him in a Beverly Hills hotel have infuriated Hall, 40, who lives in Richmond, southwest London, with the couple's

Celebrity divorces, page 21

children, Elizabeth, 13, James, 11, and Georgia, 4.

Jagger is believed to have asked Hall to sign a pre-nuptial agreement before their Hindu wedding in Bali, but British matrimonial lawyers agree that she would be well advised to seek a divorce in the United States.

Mark Stephens, of Stephen Innocent, Paula Yates's solicitor, said that Hall should go to Los Angeles if she wanted to "take him for every penny". "It would be surprising if somebody in her position wanted to divorce in this country," he said. "Normally we would see this happen in California, where he would have to give up 50 per cent of everything he owns. If it's in this country, she will get what is sufficient for her needs and the needs of the children."

The highest award made to a British woman was to Soraya Khashoggi, a former telephone, who received \$500 million plus property from her billionaire ex-husband, Adnan, in a settlement in America in 1982.

When Jagger was sued for divorce in 1979 by his first wife, Bianca, he successfully contested her attempt to have the hearing held in the United States on the grounds that he was a British citizen and that the family lived in London.

## Nolan supports Commons inquiry into sleaze claims

BY VALERIE ELLIOTT, WHITEHALL EDITOR

LORD Nolan last night gave his full backing to the House of Commons inquiry into the cash-for-questions affair.

He was confident that Sir Gordon Downey, the Parliamentary Commissioner for Standards, had all the powers necessary to conduct a full investigation. But he admitted that this was a powerful first test for the machinery his committee had proposed after its investigation into standards in public life. He would be watching developments carefully.

Sir Lord Nolan said: "This inquiry will be different from any previously in the House because of the introduction of the independent commissioner who will carry out the initial investigation into the facts. He will do so as is now clear with all the powers which he needs."

But Lord Nolan was concerned that the public seemed

to have forgotten that the cash-for-questions affair related to a period before the rules on MPs' interests had been tightened. The allegations against Neil Hamilton, the former Trade Minister, and David Willets, the Paymaster General, took place before or during October 1994, when the Nolan committee was set up.

"There seems to be an impression among the public that MPs may be still at it... But there has been an enormous change in the Commons since then, in the way Parliament has adopted a new framework for registering MPs' interests, and in the way that complaints are investigated."

By setting up Sir Gordon's inquiry, Lord Nolan said he was pleased that Parliament was showing the public it could put its house in order. His committee had considered it extremely important that the

Commons should continue to regulate its own affairs.

"I have no doubt at all that Sir Gordon and the Select Committee on Standards and Privileges and every member of the House is acutely aware that they are expected to ensure this inquiry is conducted thoroughly, impartially, openly and with the greatest vigour."

He praised the speed and unanimity of the Select Committee and commended the seniority and integrity of MPs on it. "It is not a committee that is likely to let anyone off the hook if they think wrong has been done," he said.

Lord Nolan has already said he intends to review the working of the office of the Parliamentary Commissioner on Standards next summer. If MPs and the public are unhappy with the procedures of the present inquiry this can be addressed at that stage.

### Channel 5 to launch in March

The new launch date for Channel 5 will be Good Friday, March 28 next year, three months later than expected. Retaining to avoid interference with video recorders has proved a bigger task than anticipated. The award of an extra frequency added 1.8 million homes to its reach, taking its penetration to 80 per cent of Britain.

#### Tourist murder

A 13-year-old boy is to stand trial for the murder of a British tourist in Sydney. The boy allegedly stabbed Gavin Whalley, 22, from Dorset, with a butterfly knife as he was walking home from work in April.

#### Village greening

A scheme to create 250 village greens and urban 'breathing spaces', using £10 million from the National Lottery Millennium Fund, was launched by the Countryside Commission. Communities are being asked to apply.

#### Drug arrests

Police arrested 13 people at addresses in London, Kent and Surrey in connection with the import and sale of drugs from Holland. The raids were the culmination of a 16-month operation.

#### Squirrel alert

Road signs alerting motorists to red squirrels are to be erected on the Isle of Wight, one of their last havens. The island has an estimated 1,500 red squirrels. Up to 100 are killed on the roads each year.

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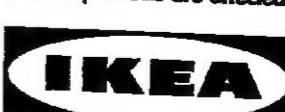


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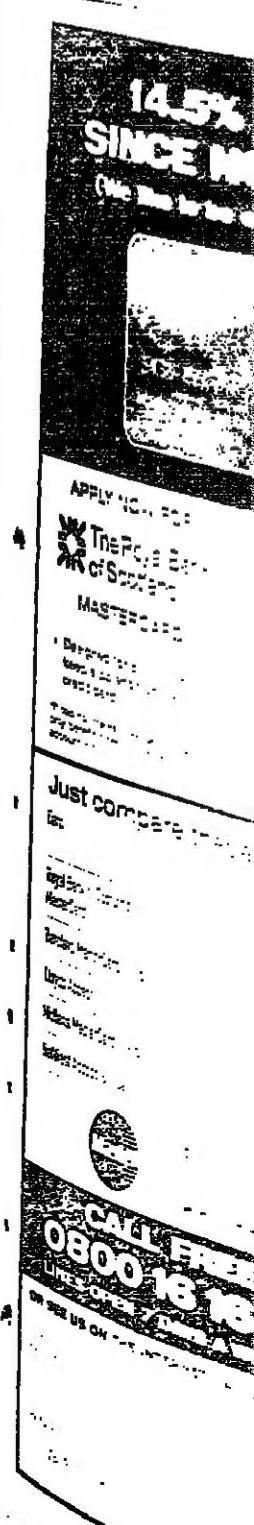
Although this fault is believed to affect only a small number of kettles, we would ask everyone who has purchased an AVERS kettle, illustrated above, to stop using it immediately.

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# Poem on bullying found after Sikh schoolboy's death

By DAVID CHARTER, EDUCATION CORRESPONDENT

POLICE are investigating the death of a Sikh schoolboy who hanged himself days after describing the misery of being bullied in a poem praised by his teacher.

Vijay Singh Shahry, 13, also left a scribbled diary at home which reads: "I shall remember this for eternity and will never forget. Monday: My money was taken. Tuesday: Names called. Wednesday: My uniform torn. Thursday: My body pouring with blood. Friday: It's ended. Saturday: Freedom." On Sunday, his body was found hanging from the banisters of his home in Streatham.

Vijay, who wore a turban, was the target of racial taunts from rival players and spectators when he played at junior football matches, police said. Phil Wren, of Greater Manchester Police, added: "We have interviewed pupils and teachers at Vijay's school and the early indications are that any bullying which did take place happened when he was travelling to and from school."

"It is too early for us to say whether this racial abuse and any bullying which may have

taken place led him to take his own life."

Vijay died days after being given a merit award by his English teacher for his "excellent" writing about bullying. Vijay's family realised only after his death that his school work drew on a secret diary.

His mother, Nickey, said: "We were completely shocked. We discovered a diary of bullying in his jotter pad and that is the only clue. His last school work was about bullying. He was a dream son."

Vijay's poem about bullies reads: "I'm frightened and scared, my body has been shaking, my mouth open wide and frozen, the tears drop as they destroy my face take\* take my money and flee to where they can go. Bullies I call out they have no feelings at all."

Bullies are the people who have no feelings or emotions.

They are people who are not so clever at things that others are. They do this because they have no skill for anything else and know they need no skills for this."

"Bullies are bad and selfish people. They are also cowardly people, cruel and evil people. They are more than all this but they're also guilty. They hurt us with words, hurt us with body contact, but not clever." His teacher wrote: "Excellent work, Vijay."

His mother said: "It is clear to me he was being bullied horrifically. The description in his project and in his jotter pad prove it. I wish he had told someone. He was very close to his family, but he didn't tell a soul. There were so many people he could have turned to for help."

The school declined yesterday to discuss Vijay's piece of writing, which was his second on bullying. Barbara Howse, the head teacher, described him as an able boy, a superb sportsman and a brilliant



Vijay Singh Shahry: taunted over turban

## Head is asked to quit after exam result fall

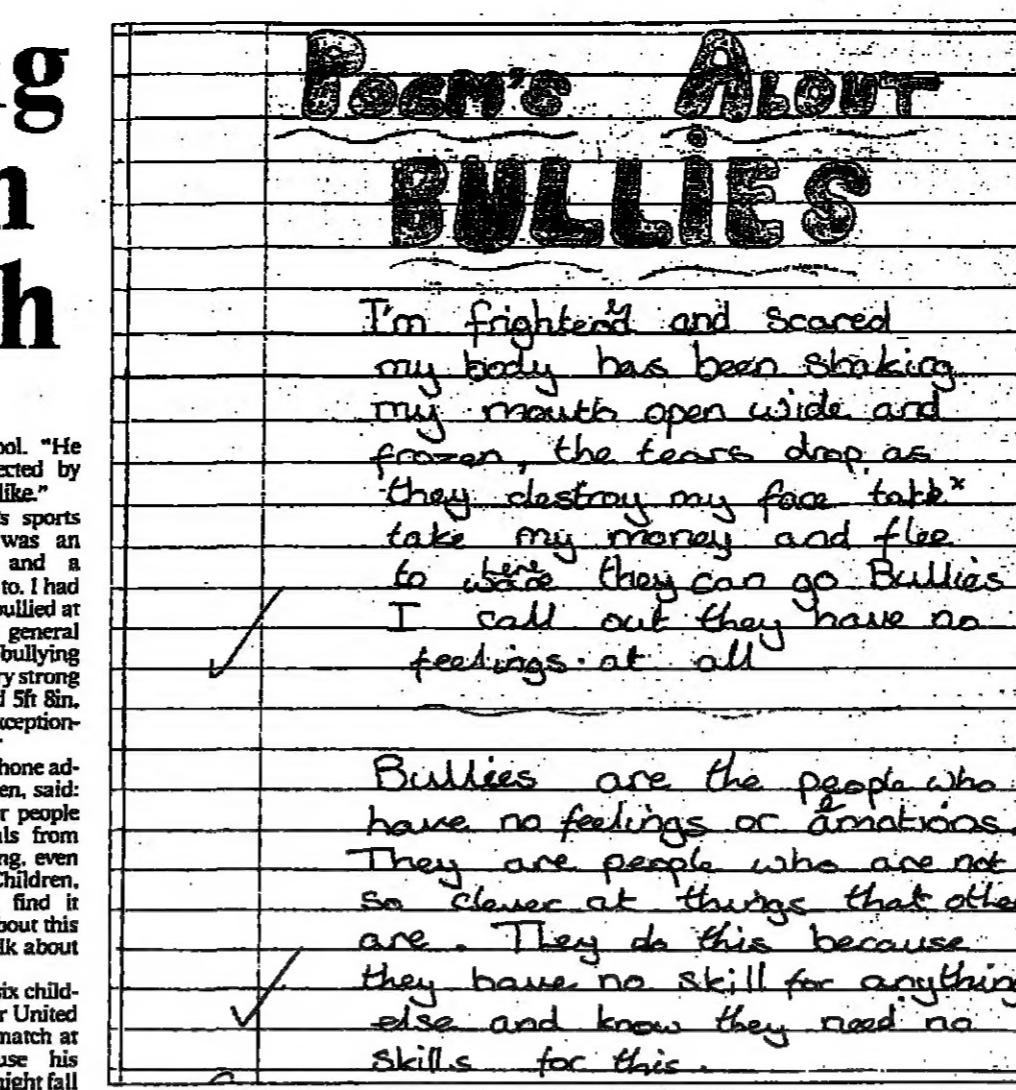
A LEADING independent school headmaster has been forced to resign by governors, who are believed to be disappointed by a drop in A-level grades (David Charter writes).

Cheltenham College announced yesterday that Peter Wilkes, 55, would leave next August after seven years in the post. A-level scores fell this summer while rival schools saw grades increase.

Air Commodore David Atherton, the school secretary, said the college council had decided that a new head was needed "to carry the school

into the next century". The average A-level points per pupil this summer at Cheltenham College, where fees are £12,000 a year for boarders, was 21.2, compared with 22 last year. At Cheltenham Ladies' College, students gained 27.2 points against 23.7 last year, and, at nearby Dean Close School, A-level points were up from 24 to 24.3.

Mr Wilkes announced earlier this year that the 600-pupil school, founded in 1841, was to become fully co-educational. He refused to comment on his apparent dismissal.



Part of Vijay's poem. His family also found a secret diary about being bullied

## MCC calls new vote on women members

By JOHN GOODBOY

THE Marylebone Cricket Club will get another chance next year to vote on its ban on women members.

Colin Ingleby-Mackenzie, the new MCC president, appealed to members in the club newsletter to consider a "modern approach". Five years ago they voted by 4,772 to 2,371 to continue barring women from membership.

Mr Ingleby-Mackenzie said: "We must not be frightened by the opposite sex who are keen cricketers and lovers of the game. If may be that a modern approach might be in the best interests of the club."

Rachel Heyhoe Flint, the former England women's captain, who campaigned against the ban in 1991, said: "This is absolutely splendid." She added that the president's support would help women's chances.

The MCC's exclusion of women has deprived it from receiving lottery funding to help to redevelop Lord's for the 1999 World Cup.

SATURDAY  
IN THE TIMES

ROCK WIVES

Pamela, Jerry,  
Paula, Patsy, sex,  
snubs and  
rock 'n' roll, in  
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Unspoilt bars are being gutted and refitted, suffering 'the equivalent of ethnic cleansing'

## Beer guide calls time on destruction of historic pub interiors

BY ROBIN YOUNG

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ings of invaluable national importance have been destroyed," Jeff Evans, the guide's editor, said.

Research for the inventory started in 1991, when Camra's pubs group, devoted to saving pub interiors from gutting and refitting, was hoping to find 500 unspoilt pubs worth listing. They have discovered 179, 72 of which are also recommended for the quality of their interiors.

"Pubs do not figure highly in the minds of planning committees and regulatory bodies. Over the years build-

ing work and mahogany fittings.

Among them — "veritable cathedrals among historic pubs" — are The Bartons Arms in Birmingham, The Crown Liquor Saloon in Belfast, The Princess Louise in central London and The Philharmonic in Liverpool.

The list includes less obvious gems with the warning:

"Plain, rural beer houses — time-warp establishments — are probably the most threatened species of our pubs." Typically consisting of one plain room, sometimes with a bar counter, such pubs are throwbacks to another age but still provide a living for often elderly licensees. Though lacking architectural refinement (and therefore not readily qualifying for the protection of statutory listing), they are, in many ways, the most precious of our pubs because so few of them now remain."

Research for the inventory suggests that no more than a dozen or so such establishments are left. All those that have been found are included in the list, among them The Nursery, Stockport, and The Three Horseshoes, Boroughbridge, which seems increasingly remarkable.

Camra has co-operated with national amenity societies, English Heritage and local



The much-admired interior of The Crown Liquor Saloon in Belfast, which is owned by the National Trust

planning authorities in compiling its list. It is now asking for information about any intact or near-intact pub interiors that could be considered for addition.

The guide, while this year emphasising the threat to pubs, also says there are increasing pressures on beer. It cites opposition from Brussels to the guest beer law, the importation of more than a million pints of beer a day from French supermarkets

sion's forthcoming decision as to whether the traditional tied tenanted pub should be allowed to continue.

The best beers being sold today are better than ever, the guide says, and 68 new breweries have started in the past 12 months, all over the British Isles. "Britain now has over 400 brewers producing more than 2,000 real ales", Mr Evans said. "The success of new brewers is clear from the Good Beer Guide's beers of the year." He said that com-

### NEWS IN BRIEF

#### PoWs halt Japan twin town plan

A plan to twin Weston-super-Mare with the Japanese port of Sakai-Minato has been abandoned after protests from former prisoners of war. The link was proposed by a local language student working in Japan. Alex Smith, 76, a former Royal Engineer captured in the Far East, said: "It's all very well saying forgive and forget, but I can't and neither can the thousands who went through what we did."

#### War crimes case

The pre-trial hearing at the Old Bailey of the prosecution of Szymon Serafinowicz, 85, of Banstead, Surrey, who is alleged to have killed three unknown Jews in Belarusia during the war, was adjourned for further inquiries.

#### Mud guard

A network of mud springs near Wootton Bassett in Wiltshire has won protection as a Site of Special Scientific Interest. But the springs, which often produce fossils, are not unique, as first thought. Others have been found near by.

#### Abduction charge

A 51-year-old man has been charged with abducting a ten-year-old girl in Paignton, Devon, on Sunday and will appear before magistrates in Torquay this morning. The girl was found on Monday on the outskirts of Exeter.

#### Thrown together

A collection of 150 airline sick bags has been put on display by Worthing Museum, West Sussex, after being donated by Jenny Davey, a hairdresser from Horsham. It is part of a display called *My Favourite Things*.

#### Wader watch

Birdwatchers gathered at dawn at Greenabell Marsh, near Hartlepool, for the first sighting in Britain of the great knot, an 11in black-chested wader. It had strayed while migrating from Siberia to warmer climes.

### Regulars give brewer's name change the bird

**REGULARS** at the Plough in Dulwich, southeast London, have angered by a brewer's plans to rename the pub the Goose and Granite (Robin Young writes).

There are already Goose and Granites near by in Catford and Clapham and Bass Taverns plans to refit 25 pubs to the formula by the end of next year. Regu-

lars at the Plough collected

400 signatures on a petition

objecting to the company's proposal, planning permission has been granted.

Bass Taverns said: "We want to create a brand

name to give customers a consistent standard and formula which they will

find in every Goose and

Granite they visit."

### Businessman says MI6 backed 'betrayal' of Falklands war dead

BY MICHAEL EVANS

A BUSINESSMAN who claims to have been a spy for MI6 says that his controller encouraged him to help Argentine Navy chiefs to refurbish their warships in breach of an arms embargo imposed after the Falklands invasion.

Clive Russell, 64, a former Royal Navy lieutenant and Tory councillor, has admitted taking part in a covert Argentine plot to buy vital

Rolls-Royce spare parts for two flagship destroyers. However, he accuses Britain's Secret Intelligence Service of doing nothing to stop the secret rearming programme, although he passed on vital intelligence about it.

He says that his MI6 controller encouraged his actions, even though they were in breach of the embargo and a "betrayal of those who died in the Falklands war", because of the benefits of gaining intelligence

about the Argentine military. Mr Russell decided to reveal his part in what was called Operation Tigre and tonight he tells his story in a one-hour special programme for Channel 4's *Dispatches*.

Operation Tigre, allegedly masterminded by Admiral Edgardo Segura, former Argentine intelligence chief, was set up to procure spare parts worth up to \$30 million for warships that had become non-operational after the Falklands war.

Many were former Royal Navy vessels, replacement parts for which were unobtainable under the embargo.

A company was set up in America, which had no embargo, specifically to copy Rolls-Royce engine parts.

Mr Russell says he was already working for MI6 in his capacity as a businessman in Argentina when he was approached in 1987 by Admiral Segura, who asked for help in beating the embargo to find parts for the Rolls-Royce engines in the Argentine Navy's frigates and destroyers. Mr Russell says he passed

this information to MI6 and was told that it could not help directly but would not obstruct him.

A company was set up in America, which had no embargo, specifically to copy Rolls-Royce engine parts.

He says that although this did not breach the British embargo, the operation violated the spirit of it by enabling the Argentine Navy to patrol the South Atlantic with effective warships.

His role as a spy for MI6 was

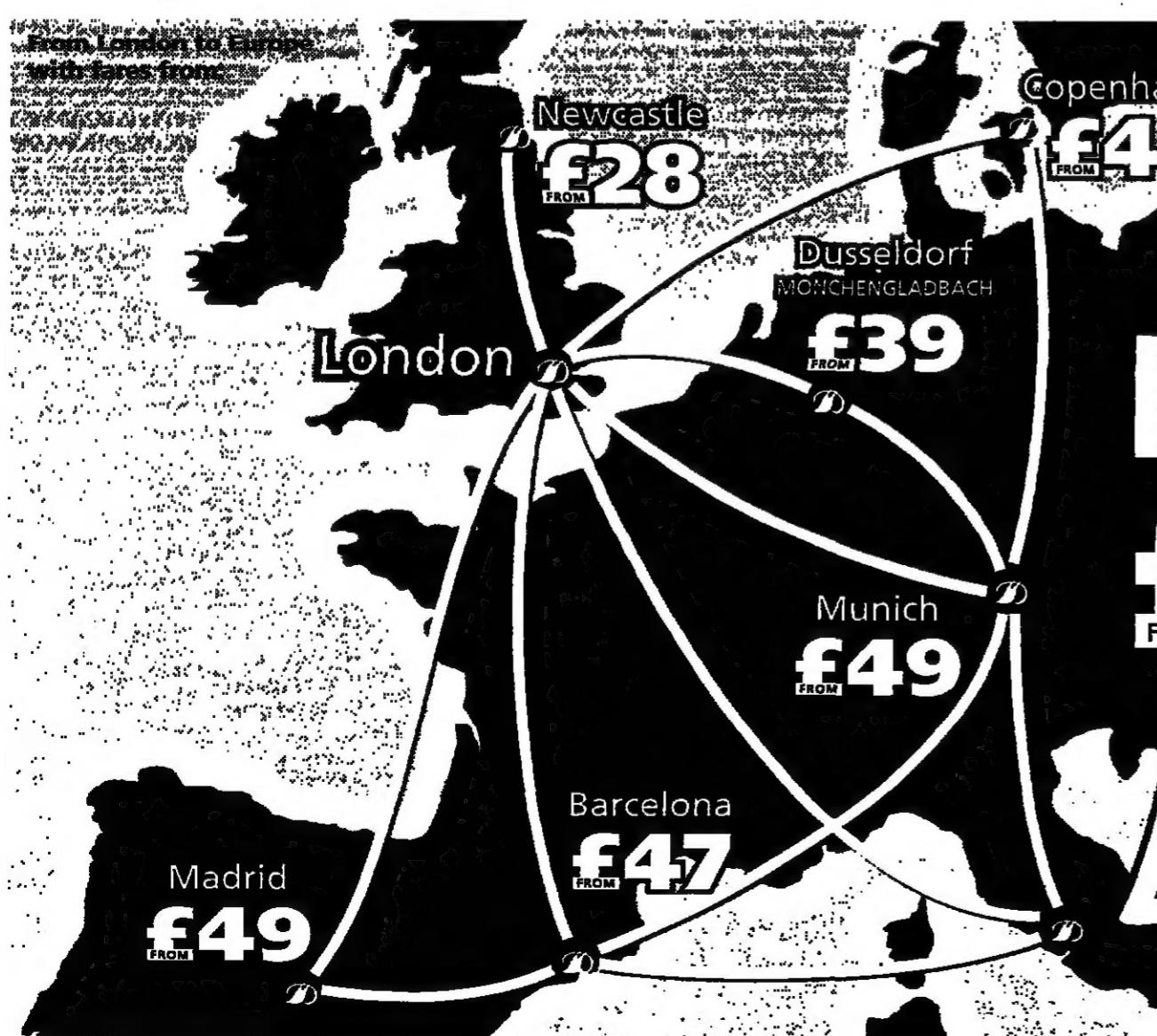
exposed, he says, and he was seized in a Buenos Aires street by a group of men who beat him up. He left Argentina in a wheelchair.

He tells the programme: "I feel terribly let down by MI6. I've been keeping this to myself for a very long period of time and it was only really because of the Scott inquiry [into the arms-for-Iraq affair] that I realised that the use of businessmen in this function would appear to be a fairly common practice."

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THE TIMES THURSDAY OCTOBER 17 1996

HOME NEWS 11

**Sèvres Protocol found in desert archive****Secret accord shows Eden lied over Suez**

By EVE-ANN PRENTICE

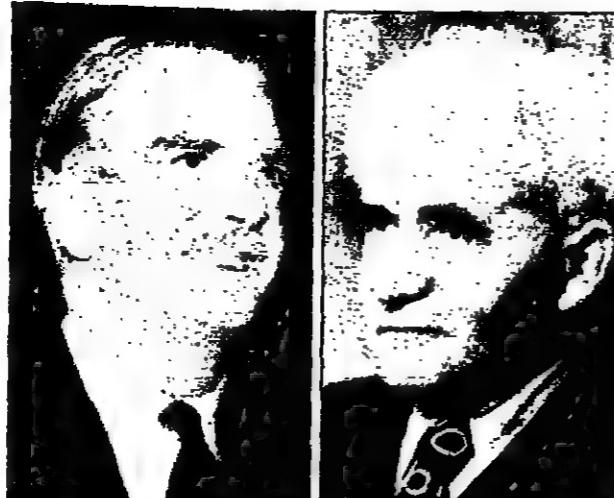
A SECRET document has come to light which proves that Sir Anthony Eden lied to Parliament and colluded with Israel and France to manufacture an excuse for bombing Egypt during the Suez crisis.

The document, which Eden tried to have destroyed, is signed by representatives of Britain, France and Israel who met several times at Sèvres, near Paris, in October 1956 to discuss the plan to attack Egypt. The Israeli copy of the Sèvres Protocol was discovered in an archive deep in the Negev desert by a BBC team working on a documentary to be broadcast for the fortieth anniversary of Suez. After intense negotiations with the Israeli, French and British Governments, the BBC team was allowed to obtain a copy. This has been passed to *The Times*, which is making it public for the first time.

Under the protocol — signed 40 years ago next week — Israel was to attack Egyptian positions near the Suez Canal on October 29, then Britain and France would call on the Egyptian leader, Colonel Nasser, to allow Anglo-French forces into the area to ensure a clear passage for ships.

The deal, which was agreed only after reservations from Selwyn Lloyd, then Foreign Secretary, gave Eden the moral justification for the invasion of Egypt. The Prime Minister, who resigned citing ill-health shortly after the Suez debacle, had been bent on a military confrontation with Nasser despite bitter opposition from the American administration of Dwight Eisenhower, a large section of British domestic opinion and members of Britain's senior military.

British and French copies of the Sèvres Protocol are thought to have been destroyed. The Israeli copy is signed by David Ben-Gurion, then Israeli Prime Minister, Patrick Dean, Assistant



Sir Anthony Eden, left, told MPs he did not know that David Ben-Gurion, the Israeli leader, planned to attack Egypt. The protocol proves otherwise

*mais Israël, le Gouvernement britannique a également été partie à cette réunion.*  
6° — Des dispositions ont été prises pour que l'attaque soit déclenchée par les deux gouvernements.  
7° — L'accord est entré en vigueur après l'accord des deux gouvernements.

*S. Ben Gurion*  
*Patrick Dean*

Under-Secretary at the Foreign Office, and Christian Pineau, French Foreign Minister. Discovered at the Ben-Gurion archive in the Negev, it has until now been made available only to those people who were present at Sèvres.

The protocol provides further proof that Eden lied to Parliament during the future that followed the Anglo-French invasion at the end of October and beginning of November 1956. In the House of Commons on December 20 Eden was asked, during a stormy session, whether he had had "foreknowledge" of Israeli intentions to attack

"That does amount to a lie... you can't explain that away..." Asked why he had not exposed the lie, Sir Donald told *The Times*: "I would have been disloyal to say the PM had lied. I think that, probably, the atmosphere has changed over the years, but I still think you can't run a successful Civil Service unless civil servants display loyalty and support."

Sir Donald says he believes the Israeli Government was anxious to respect Eden's wishes to keep the Sèvres document secret, at least during his lifetime. Eden, who was later created Earl of Avon, died in January 1977. His denial of foreknowledge transpired to be the last words he spoke in the Commons.

Sir Donald said the protocol, hastily typed in French on three pages, was signed on October 24. "I think champagne was produced but there was little sparkle in the atmosphere and Patrick [Dean] and I soon took our leave."

"On the following day... we were instructed by the Prime Minister to return to Paris to ask the French to destroy their copy of the document. At the Quai d'Orsay we presented the Prime Minister's request to Pineau, who received it rather coldly and questioned the need and advisability of such action. He pointed out that the Israelis had returned to Israel with their copy the previous evening."

Jeremy Bennett, producer of *The Suez Crisis*, to be broadcast on BBC1 next Tuesday, said: "The lesson of Suez is that, in the modern age, countries cannot unilaterally take military action without making sure they have a great degree of international support, particularly from the military superpowers."

"These lessons had been learnt by the time of Britain's campaign in the Falklands and in the war of the allied nations against Iraq in the Gulf."

Sir Donald Logan, Assistant Private Secretary to Selwyn Lloyd, was present at the Sèvres meetings and was in the House on that day. He said from his home in central London: "I was the only person in Parliament that day who knew that this was not so." Speaking on the BBC documentary, Sir Donald says: "I thought to myself



The future Edward VIII, aged 16, in a Canadian Blackfoot chief's regalia in 1910

**Village teachers hid album of rare royal photographs**

By JOANNA BALE

AN ALBUM of historic royal photographs found hidden at the back of a school cupboard was donated to the nation yesterday. The 100 black and white pictures feature members of the Royal Family meeting officers on the Western Front in the First World War and visiting Victoria, British Columbia, from the 1930s to the 1950s.

They were taken by a Canadian photographer, Howard Chapman, and presented to Bircham Primary

School, Great Bircham, Norfolk, by Queen Mary in September 1948. One hand-coloured photograph shows the future Edward VIII dressed as a chief of the Blackfoot tribe when he was a teenage Prince of Wales.

The school, which has 29 pupils, yesterday presented the album to the Royal Commonwealth Society photographic collection at Cambridge University library. The original prints will be restored and put in archives but copies have been taken by the school. The collection also

records the suffering of Canadian soldiers in the First World War, including pictures of dead troops and mutilated horses lying in the mud of Flanders.

The school is five miles from Sandringham House and used to teach estate workers' children. The black leather album is believed to have been put at the back of the cabinet after teachers decided some of the war pictures were too disturbing for children. Three years ago it was discovered by Ann Brown, a former acting head.

**Tube fares to rise 4% in new year**

Tube fares are to rise by an overall 4 per cent from January 5. London Transport said there would be no increase in most single bus fares, while single fares on the Underground would either be unchanged or rise by 10p.

Some single fares would go up from 90p to £1; some £1.10 fares to £1.20; some child fares from 50p to 60p. London Transport hopes the rises will raise an extra £4 million.

**Jet committal**

James Mullahy, 37, of Florida, was committed for trial next month on charges of drunkenness on a transatlantic flight and endangering the safety of the aircraft. He was remanded in custody and is due to appear in court again today.

**1,000th heart**

Papworth Hospital, Cambridge, has carried out its 1,000th heart transplant. Martin Joyce, 58, of Sawbridge-worth, Hertfordshire, received his new heart on September 25. Heart swaps began at the hospital 17 years ago.

**Moth rescued**

One of the rarest species of moth has been saved after a six-year conservation programme. Three reddish buff moths were found at their only known habitat in 1987 but the moth now breeds on the Isle of Wight and in Hampshire.

**Shock treatment**

Police in the City of London have become the first force in the country to be issued with defibrillators to save heart attack victims. The equipment, which electrically "kick-starts" a heart, will be carried in patrol cars.

**Pilot's memento**

The cigarette lighter carried by Reg Lucas, who died in 1941 when his Halifax bomber crashed near Aldershot after being hit by "friendly" fire, has been found and returned to his brother, Ron Lucas, of Mansfield, Nottinghamshire.

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# Clinton cashes in as bank chief delivers 'feelgood factor'



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**IF PRESIDENT CLINTON** is re-elected on November 5, as seems ever more likely, he can thank the "feelgood factor". At rallies across the country, he is claiming all the credit for America's current boom. But many argue that he has been lucky. As Robert Samuelson, the influential Washington-based columnist, puts it: "The great fiction of this election is that the President is responsible for the economy."

Tony Blair's economic schemes closely resemble the Democrats' ambitious 1992 agenda. The Labour leader will be helped, if he becomes Prime Minister, by the fact that Britain is enjoying an upswing whose full effects have not yet been felt, much like America when Mr Clinton gained power. In words which should be

Critics of the President, who is riding high on America's economic upturn, say the great fiction of the election is that he is responsible for the recovery. Bronwen Maddox in Washington writes

music to Mr Blair's ears. Paul Krugman, a leading American economist, argues: "The way to be a two-term President is to ride into office on a recession that started under your predecessor, and to be re-elected on the strength of the recovery."

Four years ago, when much of America was in the doldrums, Mr Clinton campaigned on the slogan "It's the economy, stupid". Back on the campaign trail, he hammers away now at statistics showing

that many "ordinary people" are now better off. He is not lying. America has for the moment achieved the economic nirvana of moderate, steady growth with low inflation. Unemployment is at a six-year low and ten million jobs have been created since 1992. Low interest rates have encouraged companies to invest more and eased the burden on mortgage payers.

According to *The Washington Post* this week, the experience of

poorer people in America is much less rosy than the overall picture. "The new economy has showered its favours disproportionately on workers with more education and experience."

In defending President Clinton's record, his supporters emphasise that the government deficit budget has fallen by 60 per cent. The deficit — the gap between the Government's annual income and spending — has a prominence in American politics which is mystifying to Europeans.

In the United States, the real significance of the deficit is symbolic, a powerful sign about whether the Government is out of control. Many Americans appear to feel, as Margaret Thatcher did, that if households and shopkeepers can

balance their budgets, so should governments. On this symbolic level, Mr Clinton can claim full marks. But many argue that it is Alan Greenspan, the Federal Reserve Bank chairman, who should be given real credit for current confidence. He has focused on beating inflation, even when that meant brief rises in interest rates.

Peter Dominici, the Senate budget chairman, who is close to Bob Dole, the Republican presidential candidate, says that one of Mr Clinton's most successful actions has been to reappoint Mr Greenspan for a third term.

Ironically, the President has two policies — education and trade — which may have a profound effect on growth, but the impact will be invisible for decades and they rank

## Hoffa son stakes claim to lead father's union

FROM MARTIN FLETCHER IN CLEVELAND, OHIO

HE IS a short, powerful man with piercing, pale blue eyes and built like a refrigerator. Midway through our interview he leans towards me and suggests, menacingly: "If you want to do a correct story on this election, you will go with what I tell you."

One would normally ignore such a warning, but this is Jimmy Hoffa, son of the legend who with Mafia help built the Teamsters into the world's most powerful but infamous union before vanishing 31 years ago. I am disinclined to argue: we are alone in the anteroom of a hall in industrial Cleveland, and outside the door 300 hefty supporters have gathered to greet him.

The election is for the Teamsters' presidency, and Mr Hoffa is battling to unseat Ron Carey, the incumbent, in a contest so vicious that the race for America's presidency looks positively cuddly.

Mr Hoffa claims Mr Carey's presidency has been a disaster that has bankrupted his father's union, betrayed its members and left it impotent. He calls him the witting "tool" of a Government bent on keeping the Teamsters weak. He vows to return the union to its glory days when his father boasted he could "shut down everything that moves" and Robert Kennedy called him "the most powerful man in the country next to the President".



Hoffa Sr. vanished in July 1975

force of 2.2 million members, tripled their wages, gave them middle-class status and was "one of the great labour leaders of the century". The 1992 movie *Hoffa*, starring Jack Nicholson, "didn't portray his warmth and commitment to fighting for working people", he said.

But beyond admitting that "none of us are saints" he will not discuss how his father allied himself with the Mafia, let it use the union's vast pension funds to build Las Vegas casinos, and allowed mobsters to turn locals into personal fiefdoms. In 1957 the Teamsters were expelled from the labour movement.

This autumn's ugly confrontation is the result of that criminality. In 1967 Hoffa went from the Teamsters' Capitol Hill headquarters — the "Marble Palace" — to jail. After four years President Nixon pardoned him.

When he tried to regain the presidency from his hand-picked Mafia-backed successor, he was lured to a meeting outside a Detroit restaurant on July 30, 1975, and disappeared. His son says he was murdered by "people with links to organised crime" because "they didn't want my dad coming back".

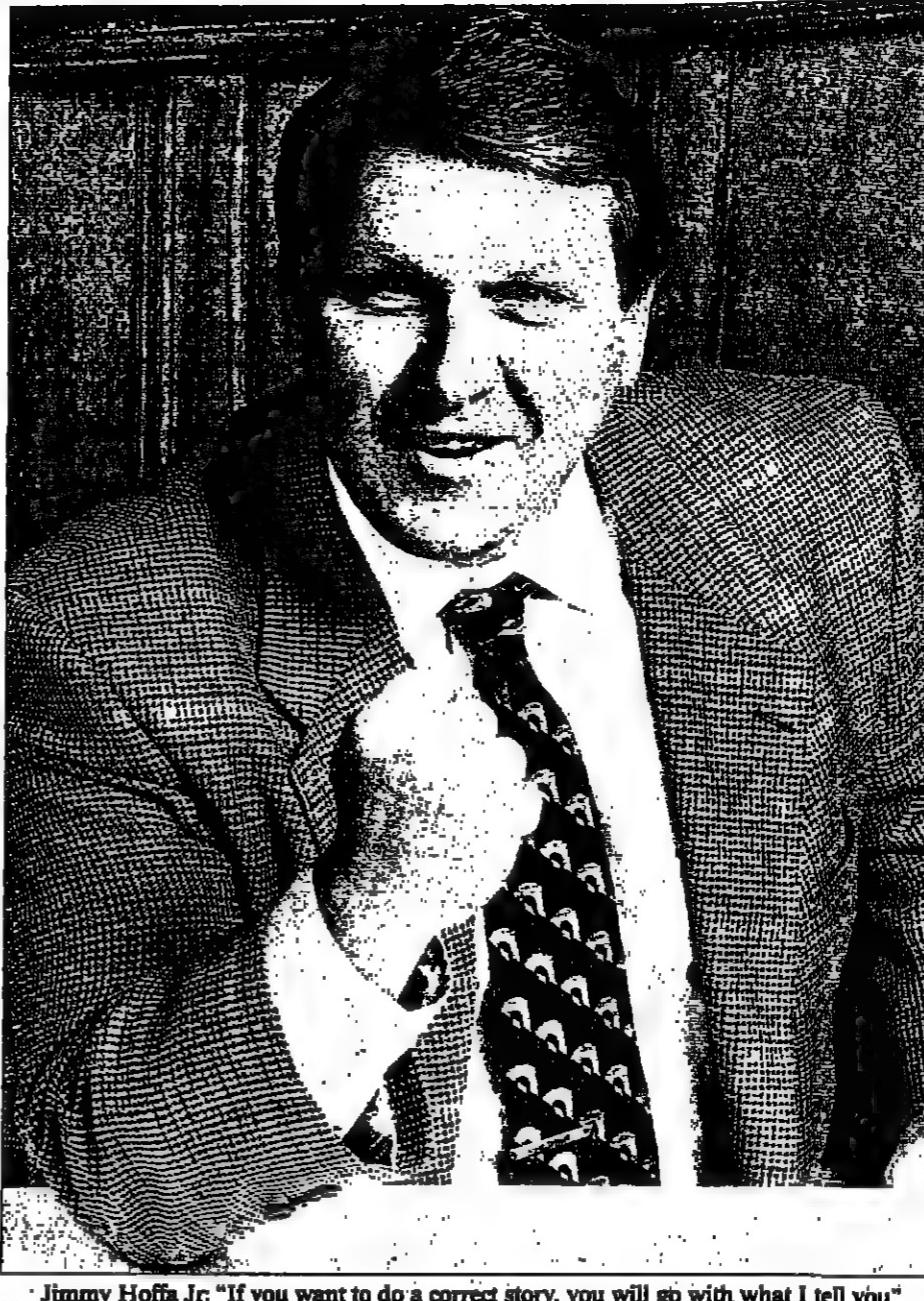
Hoffa vanished but the corruption persisted. Another president followed him to prison. A third died before being convicted. Finally, in

1989 the union averted a federal racketeering suit by agreeing to hold its first free leadership election and let independent investigators root out corruption.

Mr Carey, a former New York van driver, won that poll. He has sold the union's two jets and stretch limousines, removed 200 corrupt officials, cracked down on those collecting multiple salaries, and put 65 of the Teamsters' 579 locals into "trusteeship" for offences ranging from extortion to Mafia infiltration. One was the Chicago empire William Hogan, Mr Hoffa's running-mate, inherited from his father and used to steer lucrative contracts to his family. "I'm living proof that nepotism works," Mr Hogan once boasted.

At the Cleveland rally Mr Hoffa promised to restore the locals' autonomy, end government interference and "courage to take back this great union". He pumped the air with his fist as the crowd chanted: "Hoffa! Hoffa!"

People handed him \$100 notes. It seemed impressive until one spoke to the supporters individually. Some were ordinary members drawn by the Hoffa name. The great majority turned out to be local Teamster officials — apparatchiks from the union's Jurassic wing desperate to preserve their fat livings.



Jimmy Hoffa Jr: "If you want to do a correct story, you will go with what I tell you"

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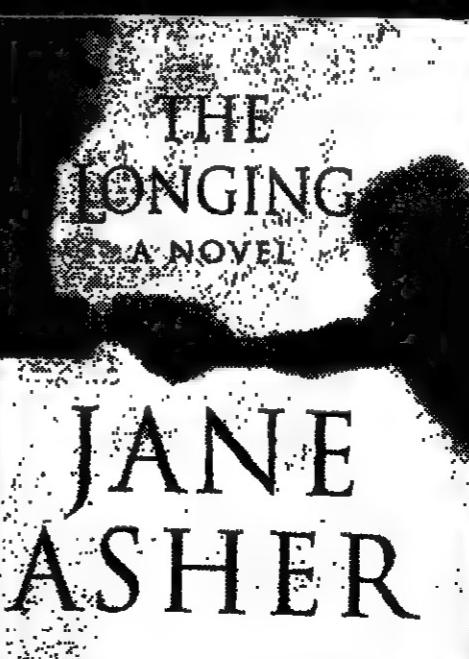
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No Party Conference has ever faced a more fundamentally important issue than the one the Referendum Party will debate on Saturday in Brighton.

What is at stake is the very future of Britain as an independent nation.

You, personally, may believe that Britain should abandon its sovereignty and merge into a federal European super-state, governed by officials in Brussels.

On the other hand, you may think that we should retain our British sovereignty and work with our European partners for our mutual advantage. That we should be one of a family of nations.

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At Saturday's Conference in Brighton, you will see that our speakers and supporters come from every shade of the political spectrum; left, right and centre.

But they are casting aside their traditional political loyalties until after the election, because they know that this issue is of such overwhelming importance that it is above party politics.

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This advertisement prepared by Banks Hoggins O'Shea on behalf of the publisher: the Referendum Party, 1st Floor, Dean Bradley House, 52 Horseferry Road, London SW1P 2AF.

# China vows to stop Hong Kong press criticising leaders

FROM JONATHAN MIRSKY IN HONG KONG

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QIAN QICHEN, the Chinese Foreign Minister, raised the political temperature in Hong Kong yesterday by saying that after the transfer of sovereignty next year, the territory's annual demonstrations against the Tiananmen Square massacre will be illegal and the press will not be allowed to criticise China's leaders.

In an interview with senior journalists of *The Asian Wall Street Journal*, Mr Qian said that dissidents must obey the law and cannot "hold political activities which directly interfere in the affairs of the mainland of China". Asked if that prohibition specifically included the Tiananmen memorial demonstrations that take place in Hong Kong each year, the Foreign Minister said: "That kind of thing."

As for the media, Mr Qian said they would be banned from "putting forward personal attacks on the Chinese leaders. That would not live up to the morality of the

occupation and is not comparable with personal moral ethics as well." Asked where these issues were stated in the law, Mr Qian said: "There is no stipulation on whether there can be attacks or not be attacks. I do not believe laws will make such stipulations."

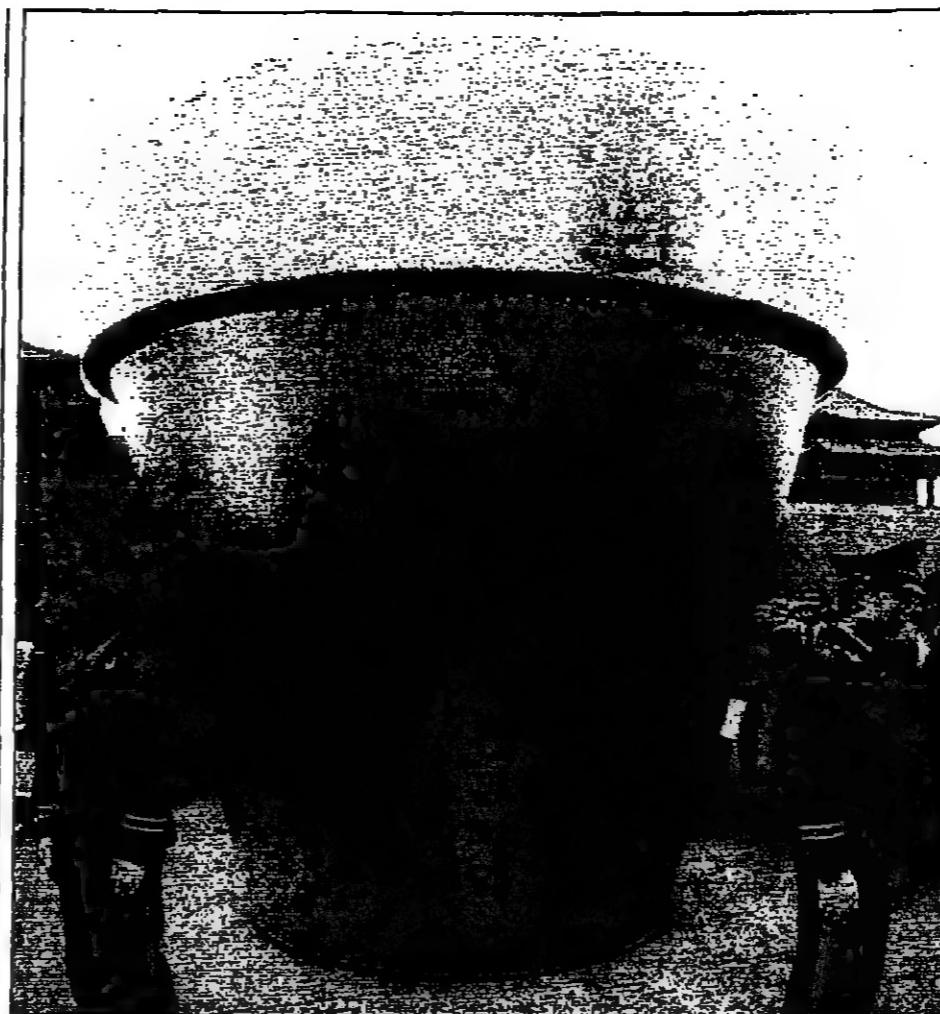
Asked if people would be jailed for anti-Tiananmen protests or personal attacks on leaders, Mr Qian replied that, as with those who actually demonstrated in the square in 1989, "they cannot possibly all live in jail for the jail is not big enough". A Government House spokesman said last night: "Bang goes 'One country, two systems', and bang goes the rule of law."

The Foreign Minister was far more conciliatory on the conflict with Japan over islands in the East China Sea. The tiny uninhabited atolls, called Diaoyu by the Chinese and Senkaku by the Japanese, are under Japanese rule and have been the focus of demon-

strations in Hong Kong, Taiwan, and Macau. Although he said the islands belonged to China, Mr Qian added: "The issue should be resolved through diplomatic negotiations. If conditions are not ripe, it can be solved later." This has been the Chinese position for two decades and is regarded as weak-kneed in Hong Kong and in Taiwan.

He took a similarly long view of United States bases in Asia. China generally preferred countries to keep their troops at home. Mr Qian said, but added that "the situation left over from history exists" and the treaty under which America protects Japan "is absolutely understandable".

□ Preparing the way: Winston Lord, the US State Department's senior East Asian specialist, was in Peking yesterday for talks with Chinese officials in preparation for the visit next month of Warren Christopher, the Secretary of State.



Chinese soldiers guard *The Gilded Pot*, by the French artist Jean-Pierre Raynaud, which is on display in Peking's Forbidden City, near the Gate of Supreme Harmony

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## Couch potatoes inflate US figures on obesity

FROM QUENTIN LETTS IN NEW YORK

MORE than half of the population of the United States is now officially fat, according to the latest findings. It is the first time that the portly have numerically outweighed the lean in America.

A meeting of the North American Association for the Study of Obesity heard that, under a new method of gauging fitness, 59 per cent of American men and 49 per cent of women fall into the fat category. Two age groups were noticeably plump: the over 50s and children. In the late 1970s, only a quarter of the country's adult population was officially regarded as being overweight.

Katherine Flegal, a researcher with the National Centre for Health Statistics, said that the prevalence of television remote controls may have helped to create the problem. Viewers no longer even have to rise from their armchairs to change channel. She added that, with people afraid of crime, they sometimes decide against leaving the home to exercise.

The figures suggest that the endless proclamations on American television about diets and exercise are no match for the big helpings traditionally served by the country's restaurants and the fatty content of their fare.

Albert Stunkard, a scientist at the University of Pennsylvania, blamed "just eating too much", while Tim Byers, of the University of Colorado, said: "It has been clear for years that Americans are getting fatter but that process is accelerating. That is troubling." Ms Flegal reported that cholesterol levels and blood pressure were being kept in check, but diabetes appeared to be on the rise.

The White House reacted with scepticism last night to the general's claims, but said the response of the United States to any Syrian attack would be very strong.

Analysts in America are convinced that President Assad, who often sends conflicting signals about his intentions, is too wary of defeat by Israeli forces to risk conflict over the Golan.

A senior official at the National Security Council said: "We are watching the situation very closely."

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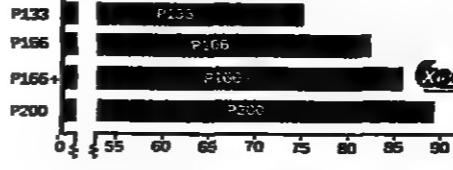
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## Warning of Golan offensive by Syria

BY CHRISTOPHER WALKER  
AND TOM RHODES

NEARLY fears of a clash between Israel and Syria arose yesterday after a top Israeli intelligence officer gave a warning in the Knesset that Syria was preparing for a possible military attack if it concludes that there is no peaceful way to regain the Golan Heights, lost in the 1967 war.

The officer spoke as state-controlled Damascus Radio broadcast its most belligerent commentary in recent weeks, accusing Binyamin Netanyahu, the Israeli Prime Minister, of acting against peace and massing more troops on occupied land in southern Lebanon and the Golan.

At the same time, Yassir Arafat, the Palestinian leader, angrily rejected the latest Israeli plan for redeployment in the occupied West Bank city of Hebron. On a visit to Cairo, Mr Arafat said of the plan to divide the city and allow Israeli troops the right of hot pursuit into Palestinian areas: "It is a dangerous operation. It shows Israel's aggressive intentions in Hebron."

Israel television reported that Brigadier-General Amos Gilad, head of research in military intelligence, told the Knesset defence committee: "The Syrians are talking about a military option, are preparing for it and it will be implemented in accordance with developments."

Although the session took place behind closed doors, identical accounts of the warning appeared in the press. Haaretz quoted the general as saying that the aim of military action — for which training was already under way — would be to try to impose a diplomatic solution on Israel.

The White House reacted with scepticism last night to the general's claims, but said the response of the United States to any Syrian attack would be very strong.

Analysts in America are convinced that President Assad, who often sends conflicting signals about his intentions, is too wary of defeat by Israeli forces to risk conflict over the Golan.

A senior official at the National Security Council said: "We are watching the situation very closely."

## NEWS IN BRIEF

### Japan in range of missile

TOKYO: North Korea is preparing to test a medium-range missile with the potential to threaten Japan, heightening tensions here (Robert Whyman writes). Japan's Self-Defence Agency said yesterday that North Korean observation ships were in position in the expected impact area in the Sea of Japan.

A US reconnaissance satellite confirmed that North Korea had moved the launch platform of its Rodong-I missile, which has a range of 600 miles, out of its base in the east. So far, Pyongyang has given no warning of an imminent test. Regional tensions have been high after North Korean commandos landed in South Korea last month.

### Kasparov check

Jerusalem: Natan Sharansky, the Israeli Trade Minister and a former Soviet dissident, was victorious in one of a series of simultaneous matches played here by the grandmaster, Garry Kasparov. (Reuters)

### Croatia joins up

Strasbourg: The Council of Europe has decided to admit Croatia as its fortieth member after a delay of six months caused by human rights concerns in the former Yugoslav republic. (Reuters)

### Kidnap arrests

Frankfurt: Police searching for Jakub Fiszmann, the kidnapped German millionaire, have arrested five people and recovered a DM4 million (£1.6 million) ransom, but did not find the captive. (AP)

### Nigerians freed

Lagos: Three opposition leaders jailed on suspicion of murdering the wife of Chief Moshood Abiola, the self-declared president of Nigeria who is imprisoned, have been freed after four months. (AFP)

### Mosquito order

Delhi: Indian ministers told Delhi officials to prosecute home owners who fail to eradicate mosquitoes, which have caused a dengue fever outbreak in which more than 150 people have died. (Reuters)

مكتبة من الأصل

## Ousted Government warns Taliban forces to abandon Kabul or face bloodbath

## Thousands flee as battle for Afghan capital sharpens



**Christopher Thomas** reports from Kabul as the Islamic forces reply to an ultimatum by sending in their warplanes

THOUSANDS are fleeing the battle for control of Kabul, raging 12 miles north of the Afghan capital at the foot of the Hindu Kush mountains, despite peace talks between the city's Taliban rulers and a northern warlord.

The war intensified yesterday in both words and weapons. The ousted Government warned Taliban to quit the city or face a bloodbath; Taliban replied by sending its decrepit Russian warplanes on bombing runs.

The immediate objective of government forces is the seizure of Bagram, a heavily fortified airbase, near the heavily fortified Panjshir Valley where General Ahmed Shah Masood, their military commander, has his headquarters. He said that Taliban, which captured Kabul three weeks ago, was being offered a last chance for peace. Its troops should get out or they would be pushed out.

Villages around Bagram are emptying as people escape intense close-quarters fighting. The fall of the airbase would enable General Masood to bring his warplanes, believed to be parked in Kunduz province in the far north, close to the battlefield. General Abdul Rashid Dostum, the northern warlord who is a military ally,

could then also bring fighter planes to Kabul's doorstep if he joins the attack.

General Dostum's forces are still not taking part in the fighting, but there is joint discussion of strategy and a sharing of resources. He has greater firepower than General Masood, who had to leave much of his hardware behind when he abandoned Kabul on September 27, and is capable of intense bombardment of the city, three-fifths of which is estimated to have been destroyed in earlier battles.

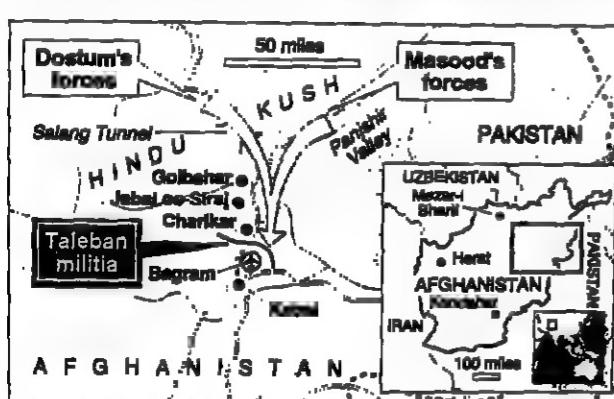
Taliban's planes have bombed the town of Jabal os-Siraj where General Masood has set up his forward base. There were few casualties but property was damaged. Earlier this week the small town of Charikar, to the south, was also bombed. The sound of aircraft sends everybody dashing for cover; low clouds moved across the area yesterday afternoon, bringing an opportunity for people to flee in safety.

Shirmohamad Stanekzai, a minister in Taliban's Foreign Ministry, warned Russia against aiding General Masood last night. He said that Russia, which is worried by Islamic extremism in the region, had threatened to intervene if Taliban forces reached the border of the former Soviet republics. "If they interfere in our affairs, we are ready to create problems for them by interfering in theirs," he said.

Mullah Muhammad Muqai, the Taliban Culture and Information Minister, said that Kabul had been reinforced with 5,000 additional soldiers brought from the



A girl brings food for her family at an Afghan refugee camp in Peshawar, Pakistan



south, though there was no obvious evidence of that on the city's streets yesterday. He spurned an offer by General Dostum for Kabul to be controlled jointly by all sides. The "killers" of the old Government would not be allowed to return.

"We will cleanse the rest of the country of the enemies of Afghanistan," he said. Afghanistan would be purified. Reports that young men were

being rounded up and forcibly recruited into the Taliban army amounted to propaganda spread by the ousted Government. Taliban had come to save the people, not oppress them, he said.

This is not a sentiment widely shared by the citizens of Kabul, where repression is intense and intensifying. There is fear of renewed fighting in the capital and those with the resources —

who are few — are getting out. Many families were boarding buses at the bus station yesterday for the long journey to the Khyber Pass and the bleak safety of Pakistan.

Pakistan is desperate to rid itself of Afghan refugees, who have contributed significantly to the country's culture of violence and destabilised its North West Frontier Province, a principal centre of the international drugs trade.

She worked at the orphanage before Taleban came when there were 30 women teachers. "How can we abandon these children? They have nothing left. I can give them a little affection. It is not enough but it is all I have."

She no longer gets paid and is sinking into poverty. She is a widow with children of her own: her previous salary of 90,000 afghanis (£4) a month enabled her to survive.

Another widow arrived in full *burqa* to see the five children she recently abandoned. She threw off her veil contemptuously: until Taleban came she never wore one. Across the wall, in a large room lined with cots, was written "We trust in God." A dozen babies cried in their cots or crawled around unattended.

There are 290,000 children in Kabul aged under five, according to Action Contre La Faim, which conducted a survey of child nutrition. One third of all children are sick; half are moderately or severely stunted. Half have no father. Before the Islamic fighters arrived, it was estimated that Kabul had 24,000 acutely malnourished children. Because their mothers are not allowed to work, the figure must now be substantially higher.

Women have died during childbirth in Kabul since Taleban came because they were too afraid to go to hospital. Doubtless some children have died for the same reason. It is estimated that one child in six dies in Kabul before the age of five — one of the world's highest mortality rates. There are countless child beggars in the capital. Mothers, fully veiled, sit in the street with babies in their laps, begging for food, victims of Taleban's ideology.

Friday, 18 October  
at 10:00 pm (British time)

New  
numbering  
plan  
in  
France



## How to call France from the United Kingdom

© Réseau Télécom de France Véronique Ménard & Associates

On 18 October 1996 at 10:00 pm British time, France will switch to a new telephone numbering plan. These changes anticipate for the ever increasing volume of telecommunications traffic in France (new services, fax, mobile phones, etc.). This new plan provides a reserve of numbers for several decades to come and marks a further step

towards harmonization with European directives and international recommendations. This New Telephone Numbering Plan applies to all numbers you call in France. To call a number in France from the United Kingdom, after 00 simply dial the country code 33, followed by a 9-digit number.

## 9 digits to call all numbers

To call the "provinces"  
(outside Paris and the Paris region)

Depending on the location, dial 2, 3, 4 or 5 in front of the current number, which remains the same.

The digits to be added are shown on the area code map and in the area code table.

For example: 00 33 30 ..... becomes 00 33 3 20 .....



To call Paris and the Paris region

There are no changes. You will continue to dial the 9-digit number which begins with 1.

For example: 00 33 1 .....

To call mobile numbers

To call a mobile phone, dial 6 before the current 8-digit number, which remains the same.

For example: 00 33 01 ..... becomes 00 33 6 01 .....

To the current number beginning with:	Add:	To the current number beginning with:	Add:	To the current number beginning with:	Add:
3	20	2	48	4	76
3	21	5	49	4	77
3	22	4	50	4	78
3	23	2	51	4	79
3	24	5	53	3	80
3	25	2	54	3	81
3	26	5	55	3	82
3	27	5	56	3	83
3	28	5	57	3	84
3	29	5	58	3	85
3	31	5	59	3	86
2	32	3	60	3	87
2	33	5	61	3	88
3	34	5	62	3	89
2	35	5	63	4	90
2	37	5	65	4	91
2	38	4	66	4	92
2	39	4	67	4	93
2	40	4	68	4	94
2	41	4	69	4	95
4	42	4	70	2	96
2	43	4	71	2	97
3	44	4	72	2	98
5	45	4	73	2	99
5	46	4	74		
2	47	4	75		

Last valid at March 31, 1995

## Remember...!

Don't forget to update your personal directory. If necessary, modify all French numbers (including speed dialing) stored in your equipment: telephones, fax machines, etc.

## How to phone when you are in France

For all calls within France, dial 0 before the 9-digit number. The domestic long distance access code, 16, will no longer be used.

To call another country from France, dial 00 (instead of 19).

France Telecom

Security tightens at Vienna Christie's as wartime loot goes under the hammer

## Austria confronted by Nazi past in sale of Jewish treasures

FROM ROGER BOYES IN VIENNA

**A**ustria will be under heavy guard from next week as the British auction house prepares for one of its most sensitive sales: a hoard of art stolen from Austrian Jews by the Nazis.

In the age of letterbomb politics — and the seemingly unstoppable rise of the far Right — the auction is regarded as a potential target of racists in a country struggling to come to terms with its past.

"Austria must not be allowed to become [like] Switzerland," Hans Rauscher, a Vienna commentator, says, welcoming the Christie's sale. While Switzerland is being confronted with its wartime amorality of taking over Nazi gold and Nazi bank accounts and discouraging the search for their Jewish owners, Austria is at last coming clean about its wartime booty.

The sale of the 7,000 pieces, stored in the Carthusian monastery of Mauerbach outside Vienna, is as much a political event as an artistic celebra-

tion. But not all members of the Jewish community, helping to organise the sale, are satisfied that all efforts have been exhausted in trying to trace the owners of the hoard.

"They gave me five minutes to get my coat and my handbag," a Jewish woman, arrested in her Vienna flat in 1939, wrote in a letter from New Zealand in 1965. In the corridor, she had turned around and stared at the painting that she and her father adored: it was a work by Friedrich Gauermann. What was started by her search for the painting will culminate on October 26 with the Christie's auction.

That letter was addressed to Simon Wiesenthal, the Nazi-hunter and head of the Vienna-based Jewish Documentation Centre. "Somebody would like to buy the painting and the money would really help," she wrote. "I'm growing old and I've got bills to pay."

The Nazis looted paintings, sculptures and silver pieces

from Jewish and non-Jewish homes. The Allies discovered the caches and ordered Austria to trace the owners. Almost 10,000 artworks were returned. But Austrian enthusiasm was lukewarm.

The 1955 Treaty of Vienna, establishing the modern Austrian state, obliged it to continue with the search: this was a difficult task since Jewish survivors were dispersed and Austria did not invest a great deal of energy in it. After half-hearted attempts to publicise the hoard, bits of it were declared ownerless and sold off. The rest was stashed in Mauerbach or loaned to Austrian museums and galleries.

Her Wiesenthal insisted that detailed lists of the works be distributed worldwide through Austrian embassies. The list was compiled and published in Austria but few claimants heard about it. Even when a law was passed in 1969, giving owners more time to lodge claims, the authorities seemed to find reasons for not

handing over the artworks. The parallel with the churlish Swiss banks which discouraged Holocaust survivors from discovering their old accounts, was strong. Between 1969 and 1972 thousands of applications were received but only 71 were settled. A second law, passed last year, accelerated matters a little, but survivors of the Holocaust were already beginning to die.

"This story will not figure on our role of honour," said Judge Reimar Gradschink, who has successfully restored 400 pieces. The Mauerbach collection includes mainly 19th-century German and Austrian painters such as Rudolf von Alt. Works of some

of Hitler's favourite painters, such as Hans Makart, are included. Although the money raised will be mainly distributed to Jewish charities, there is a nagging suspicion among Jews that Austria has only taken a small step towards admitting its role in the Holocaust. For decades, Austrian officials shrugged off inquiries about the Mauerbach collection by saying much of it was worthless kitsch. This was a deception since Austrian museums were anxious to get their hands on many works, but the claim also misses the point. "The people I have seen have been in search of memories, not fortunes," Judge Gradschink said. One woman showed him death certificates of 14 relatives to prove her identity. "After you have seen that, do you then press her as to whether the background colour of a claimed oil painting is light blue or light green?"

William Rees-Mogg, page 22  
Books, page 41



Paintings on sale include *Portrait of a Lady in Red Bonnet*, by Hans Makart, admired by Hitler, and *In the Schtetl*, by Ludwig Knaus

## Italy embraces Priebe retrial as chance to learn from war

FROM RICHARD OWEN  
IN ROME



Priebe: freed by tribunal after admitting massacre

**T**HE decision to retry Erich Priebke, 83, a former SS officer, for a massacre was welcomed yesterday as an opportunity for Italy to face its wartime ghosts.

"The past has come back to haunt us," said *La Stampa*. "We expect a just verdict which will, once and for all, put an end to this terrible chapter in our recent history." It added that the three-man military tribunal that tried Priebke for war crimes, in proceedings often bordering on farce, had made a fundamental error when it ordered him freed in August. But

the chairman of the tribunal, Judge Agostino Quistelli, defended the verdict, which found Priebke guilty of the massacre in March 1944 of 335 men and boys at the Ardeatine caves on the Appian Way just outside Rome, but set him free because of "mitigating circumstances". There was a public outcry, and Priebke was immediately rearrested because of a request by Bonn for his extradition for trial in Germany. He is still in jail.

Judge Quistelli made clear that the "mitigating circumstances" had included Priebke's age. "I tried an old man who represents no danger to society and who

committed a crime over half a century ago," he said. Outraged relatives of the massacre victims accused the judge of being biased in favour of Priebke. A lower court rejected this, but this week the Supreme Court overruled the lower court decision and ordered a retrial. It is expected within three months.

Judge Bruno Rocchi, who also sat on the tribunal, said "only a madman" would agree to preside over the retrial. "They are doing all they can to ensure Priebke dies in jail," he said.

Carlo Taormina, a defence lawyer, said that the Supreme Court had dispensed "political justice".

and Priebke should be transferred to house arrest.

Tullia Zevi, leader of the Jewish community in Rome, said too many Italians wanted to sweep the Fascist past and Mussolini's alliance with Hitler under the carpet.

"This is an important history lesson for Italy, and especially for the young, at a time when the far Right is again on the march in Europe," she said.

*Il Messaggero* said the retrial "must be used by all of us, including the media and the schools, to tell the truth about the Second World War, its causes and bloody dramas, the gratuitous ferocity of the Fascists against the weak and defenceless, and the brave resistance to the dictators by the democracies, led by the British. It would be a bad thing for Italian democracy if the memory of those terrible years disappeared".

The problem of facing the past has also been raised by new evidence from Klaus Voigt, a German historian, showing that Mussolini was told about the systematic elimination of the Jews by the Nazis in the summer of 1942. Some Italian historians maintain that Il Duce did not know about the Holocaust until much later in the war. *La Repubblica* said Herr Voigt had documents proving Mussolini was told the truth at an early stage by Italian commanders in Eastern Europe and by the German Ambassador in Rome.

The victims of the Ardeatine caves massacre — a reprisal for an Italian partisan ambush on a German patrol — included Communist partisans and Italian Jews taken from the Rome ghetto.

Priebe, who was extradited from Argentina last year, admitted killing two of the victims and checking the names of others on a Gestapo list as they got off the lorries.

His defence was that he was obeying Gestapo orders and would have been shot himself if he had disobeyed.

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THE SUNDAY

مكتبة من الأصل

# Poem on bullying found after Sikh schoolboy's death

By DAVID CHARTER, EDUCATION CORRESPONDENT

POLICE are investigating the death of a Sikh schoolboy who hanged himself days after describing the misery of being bullied in a poem praised by his teacher.

Vijay Singh Shahir, 13, also left a scribbled diary at home which read: "I shall remember this for eternity and will never forget. Monday: My money was taken. Tuesday: Names called. Wednesday: My uniform torn. Thursday: My body pouring with blood. Friday: It's ended. Saturday: Freedom." On Sunday, his body was found hanging from the banisters of his home in Streatham.

Vijay, who wore a turban, was the target of racial taunts from rival players and spectators when he played at junior football matches, police said. Phil Wren, of Greater Manchester Police, added: "We have interviewed pupils and teachers at Vijay's school and the early indications are that any bullying which did take place happened when he was travelling to and from school."

"It is too early for us to say whether this racial abuse and any bullying which may have

taken place led him to take his own life."

Vijay died days after being given a merit award by his English teacher for his "excellent" writing about bullying. Vijay's family realised only after his death that his school work drew on a secret diary.

His mother, Nickey, said: "We were completely shocked. We discovered a diary of bullying in his jotter pad and that is the only clue. His last school work was about bullying. He was a dream son."

Vijay's poem about bullies reads: "I'm frightened and scared, my body has been shaking, my mouth open wide and frozen, the tears drop as they destroy my face take\* take my money and flee to where they can go Bullies I call out they have no feelings at all"

Bullies are the people who have no feelings or emotions. They are people who are not so clever at things that others are. They do this because they have no skill for anything else and know they need no skills for this.

Bullies are bad and selfish people. They are also cowardly people, cruel and evil people. They are more than all this but they're also guilty. They hurt us with words, hurt us with body contact, but not clever." His teacher wrote: "Excellent work, Vijay."

His mother said: "It is clear to me he was being bullied horrifically. The description in his project and in his jotter pad prove it. I wish he had told someone. He was very close to his family, but he didn't tell a soul. There were so many people he could have turned to for help."

The school declined yesterday to discuss Vijay's piece of writing, which was his second on bullying. Barbara Howse, the head teacher, described him as an able boy, a superb sportsman and a brilliant



Vijay Singh Shahir: taunted over turban

## Head is asked to quit after exam result fall

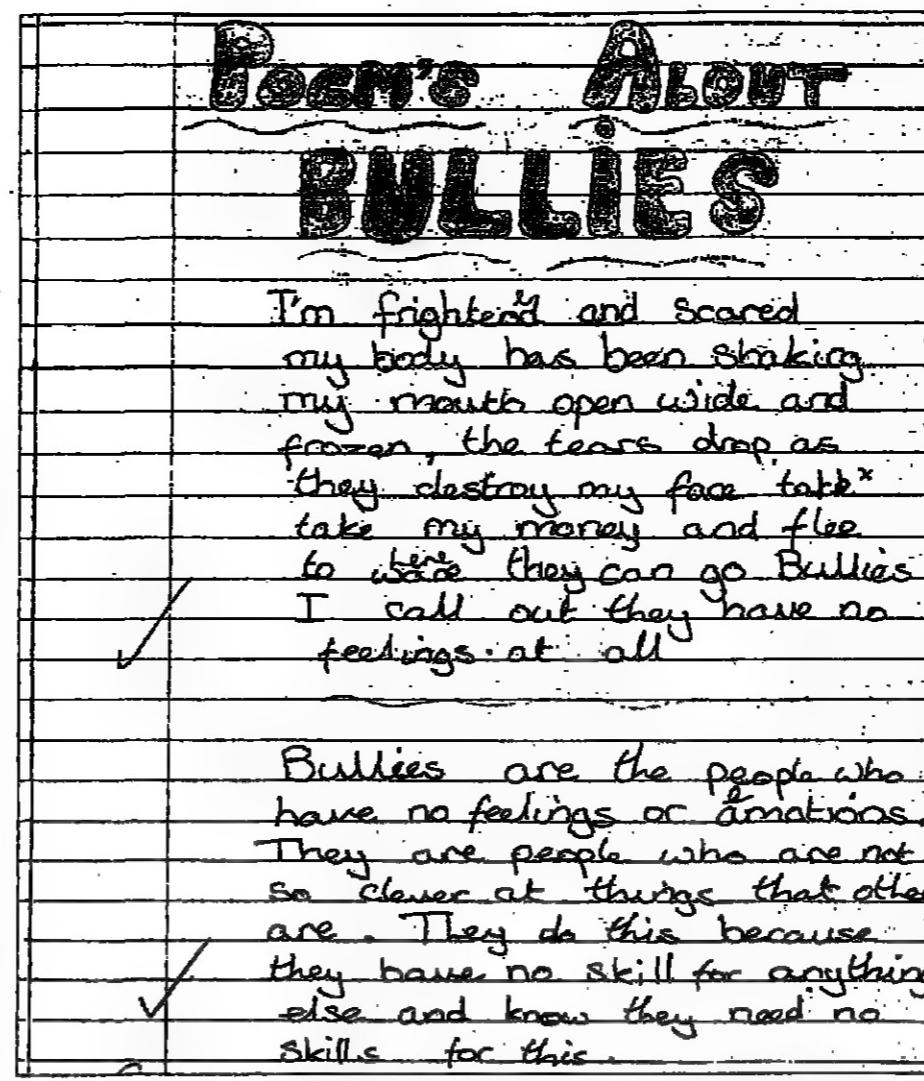
A LEADING independent school headmaster has been forced to resign by governors, who are believed to be disappointed by a drop in A-level grades (David Charter writes).

Cheltenham College announced yesterday that Peter Wilkes, 55, would leave next August after seven years in the post. A-level scores fell this summer while rival schools saw grades increase.

Air Commodore David Atherton, the school secretary, said the college council had decided that a new head was needed "to carry the school

into the next century". The average A-level points per pupil this summer at Cheltenham College, where fees are £12,000 a year for boarders, was 21.2, compared with 22 last year. At Cheltenham Ladies' College, students gained 27.2 points against 23.7 last year, and, at nearby Dean Close School, A-level points were up from 24 to 24.3.

Mr Wilkes announced earlier this year that the 600-pupil school, founded in 1841, was to become fully co-educational. He refused to comment on his apparent dismissal.



Part of Vijay's poem. His family also found a secret diary about being bullied

**MCC calls new vote on women members**

By JOHN GOODBOY

THE Marylebone Cricket Club will get another chance next year to vote on its ban on women members.

Colin Ingleby-Mackenzie, the new MCC president, appealed to members in the club newsletter to consider a "modern approach". Five years ago they voted by 4,727 to 2,371 to continue barring women from membership.

Mr Ingleby-Mackenzie said: "We must not be frightened by the opposite sex who are keen cricketers and lovers of the game. If may be that a modern approach might be in the best interests of the club."

Rachel Heyhoe Flint, the former England women's captain, who campaigned against the ban in 1991, said: "This is absolutely splendid." She added that the president's support would help women's chances.

The MCC's exclusion of women has debarred it from receiving lottery funding to help to redevelop Lord's for the 1999 World Cup.

SATURDAY  
IN THE TIMES

ROCK WIVES

Pamela, Jerry, Paula, Patsy, sex, snubs and rock 'n' roll, in the Magazine

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14.5% VARIABLE INTEREST LENDER TO BANK OF SCOTLAND LTD. 14.5% VARIABLE INTEREST APPLIED TO BALANCE ON 1st JULY 1996. APR 14.5%. SUBJECT TO STATE, 14.5% VARIABLE APR APPLIED TO BALANCE ON 1st JULY 1996 WHICH WILL NOT BE LESS THAN 12% OR GREATER THAN 17% OF THE PREVIOUS MONTHLY STATEMENT BALANCE. IF THE STATEMENT BALANCE IS LESS THAN £5,000, THE VARIABLE APR IS 14.5%. IF THE STATEMENT BALANCE IS £5,000 OR MORE, THE VARIABLE APR IS 14.5% + 0.5%. IF THE STATEMENT BALANCE IS £10,000 OR MORE, THE VARIABLE APR IS 14.5% + 1%. IF THE STATEMENT BALANCE IS £15,000 OR MORE, THE VARIABLE APR IS 14.5% + 1.5%. IF THE STATEMENT BALANCE IS £20,000 OR MORE, THE VARIABLE APR IS 14.5% + 2%. IF THE STATEMENT BALANCE IS £25,000 OR MORE, THE VARIABLE APR IS 14.5% + 2.5%. IF THE STATEMENT BALANCE IS £30,000 OR MORE, THE VARIABLE APR IS 14.5% + 3%. IF THE STATEMENT BALANCE IS £35,000 OR MORE, THE VARIABLE APR IS 14.5% + 3.5%. IF THE STATEMENT BALANCE IS £40,000 OR MORE, THE VARIABLE APR IS 14.5% + 4%. 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# The wronged wife at bay

This time, he has definitely  
gone too far. So, what is a girl  
to do? Jane Shilling considers  
the options

**W**ell, she's done it now, and no mistake. Jerry Hall, I mean. By consulting Anthony Julius, the Princess of Wales' suave and scholarly divorce lawyer, she has progressed from firing blanks to live ammunition in her latest marital skirmish with the errant Mick. Her patience with his indiscretions philandering in the course of their 20-year relationship (they did not marry until 1990) has been exemplary — she once admitted that "Mick's never going to change". But now she's had enough — or possibly it's just that she feels she has explored to its limit the extent of a woman's repertoire of tactics for dealing with the exquisite humiliation of such very public infidelity.

It may be of some comfort for Jerry to reflect that her difficulty with the grandfatherly rocker is one for which women have been trying since the world began to come up with a satisfactory solution. The shock and misery of being betrayed is the same whether one is a celeb whose domestic life routinely makes the front pages of the tabloids, or Mrs Jones whose old man's defection from the busy harlot from the Goat and Compasses has kept the corner shop amused for weeks on end.

So what's a girl to do when she finds herself in this situation? The number of options is not huge — and Jerry seems to have explored most of them. The instinctive reaction of many women is to shoulder the blame themselves. If a long moment of critical self-examination reveals red eyes, a shiny nose, stretch marks and a sex life for which moribund would be too animated a word, the temptation is to do something drastic.

Attempts to pep up a flagging sex life with aphrodisiacs have been known to backfire very badly. Mine de Pompadour, Louis XV's mistress, feared at one stage that the King's interest in her was cooling because of her lack of initiative on the *chaise longue*, and promptly put herself on a diet calculated to "warm the blood". This, consisting largely

of hot chocolate and celery, soon made her unwell — and even less keen on sex than before.

The traditional aristocratic response to infidelity is to pretend that Nothing Is Happening — just don't frighten the horses. Jerry has been terribly good at this, dismissing impudent interlopers such as Carla Bruni in much the same grand manner as Bianca Jagger once dismissed her ("Jerry who?").

The middle-class version, much practised by the wives of erring politicians, is Good Behaviour. If I am very, very patient and don't Make A Scene perhaps virtue will be rewarded and he will come back to me and everything will Be All Right. Thus we are presented with the painful spectacle of nice women such as Jane Ashdown and Judith Mellor "coping" — facing the cameras in their best Jaeger two-piece, gripping their husbands by their Savile Row sleeves as though standing at the bridge of a foundering ship, their faces a smiling mask in which courage is blended with mortification.

But the temptation, particularly with a serial adulterer, must be to find some satisfaction in making his life as horrible as he has made yours. The great question here is whether active or passive aggression gets the better result.

Expert practitioners of the active form include Elizabeth Taylor, whose drunken brawls with Richard Burton provoked him to describe their relationship as "Marvellous... but murder". Dame Maggie Smith, about whom her former husband Sir Robert Stephens plaintively remarked: "It was like living with knives", and the splendid Lady Graham Moon, who scissored her wayward husband's suits, distributed the contents of his wine cellar around the county and, with all the forthright energy of the British countrywoman at bay, formed a support group, the Old Babs' Club, for wronged wives. Holder of the Oscar for Lifetime Achievement in aggressive victimhood is, of course, Diana, Princess of Wales.

whose mastery of the techniques involved can only be described as inspired.

A few alternatives remain. Arranging to have another baby: a really good fit of hysterics, or a high-profile affair. Jerry went for a brisk canter around the paddock with Robert Sangster, the effect of which on Mick was dramatic, if temporary.

Come to think of it, perhaps we needn't feel too bad for Jerry after all. She is made of tough stuff, as Clive James discovered when he interviewed her and other supermodels after they finished their final stint on the catwalks at the Paris collections. "So, girls," said Clive, "how are you feeling?" "Exhausted," said the models, all except Jerry. She raised one eyebrow and said in her Texan drawl: "I feel richer." If the day of her decree absolute dawns, and she finds herself doorstepped by reporters, you can bet she'll give the same answer.

## Carers' champion

Valerie Grove talks to Alf Morris, MP, about his efforts to get help for people who care for disabled relatives

**W**e all know someone in this situation. Tied to the home, looking after an elderly relation or a handicapped child, day in, day out. We think: "Doesn't anyone ever give them a break?" And we do nothing about it. But today, as he has done every other day this week, Alf Morris will place on the order paper his Disabled Persons and Carers (Short-Term Breaks) Bill.

This would provide respite for about 100,000 people — a significant minority who otherwise may get no relief from the never-ending, nerve-wearing care of their charges. It would oblige local authorities, when they assess help needed to enable disabled people to live at home — such aids as wider doors, stair-lifts, adapted bathrooms — to write into the requirements an occasional break for the carer. "Carers are the most admired people in Britain," as Morris says, "but they are also among the most exploited."

The Bill has gone through the Lords ("almost by acclamation") steered by Lord Rix, chairman of Mencap. It is supported across all parties, its signatories including Sir David Steel, Dafydd Wigley, of Plaid Cymru, Margaret Ewing of the SNP, James Molyneaux of the former Ulster Unionist leader, and the Tory Sir John Hannam.

It needs only a slight alteration in the existing Bill to make a huge difference to many hard-pressed people and it makes perfect sense. So why is it struggling to get through Parliament?

What Hansard (July 12) records is this: "Order for second reading read. Hon Members Object." This is Hansard's way of a single government whip objecting: in parliamentary practice that is all that is needed. "The Bill is being blocked," says Morris. To meet the soft-spoken Mr

Morris after seeing all those sharp young blades at the Labour conference is to be reminded of the quiet altruism and dogged persistence of the older Labour generation.

He is a veteran of the battle for the interests of the disabled, having won the 1969 private members' ballot and drafted the 1970 Chronically Sick and Disabled Persons Bill, which recognised, almost for the first time, obvious human needs. As we walk through the Commons he

"They are  
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points out a stair-lift to the Jubilee Room, part of the £750,000 newly installed access for wheelchair users. When Mr Morris was born in 1928, his father was an invalid; he had lost a leg in the First World War and had been gassed. "I know how a whole family's life is affected if one member is disabled.

"I watched my father fade away. When I was seven he died. His injuries were war-related, but because he had lived on for several years after the war, my mother didn't qualify for a war widow's pension." Mrs Morris had five children to bring up; she wrote to her MP, Harry Thorneycroft. "Her letter was written on a scrappy bit of paper, but Harry Thorneycroft came to see her, took up her case and got her that pension. 'When you're old enough, you'll be giving out leaflets for Mr Thorneycroft,' she told me. And that's how I



Jerry Hall has talked to lawyers about splitting from the errant Mick Jagger, while Elizabeth Taylor married Richard Burton twice. He described their life as "marvellous... but murder"



MARTIN BEDDALL  
Paddy and Jane Ashdown: she stood by him

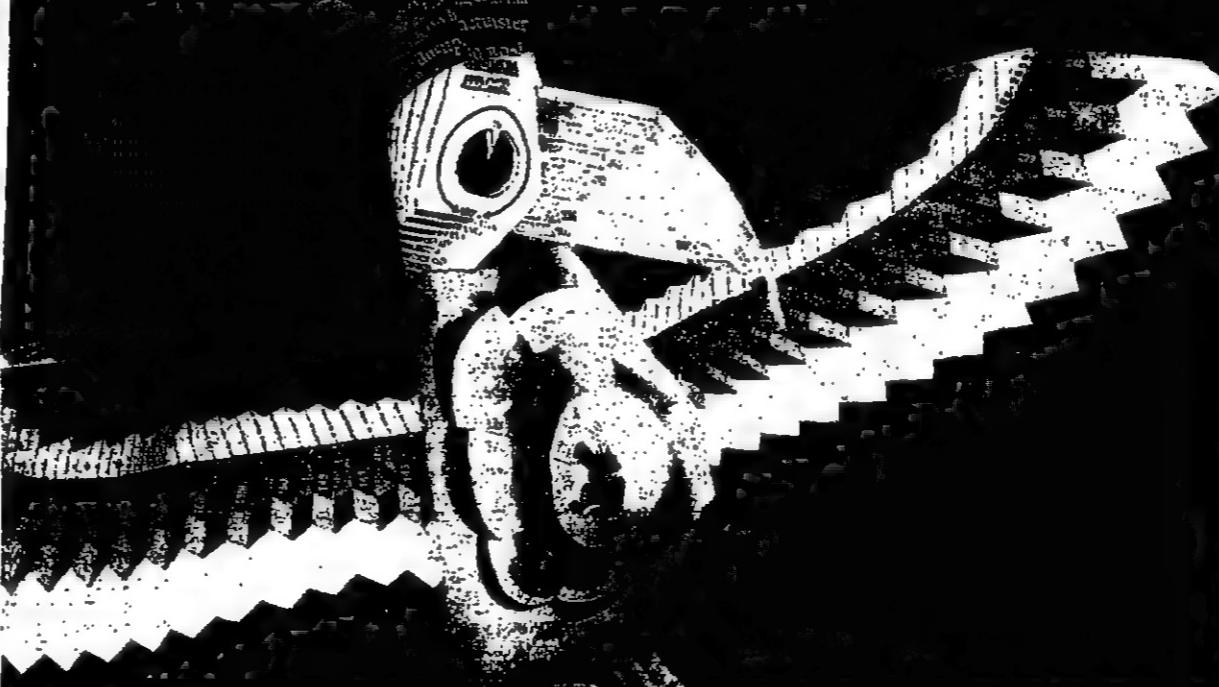


David and Judith Mellor: she kept quiet



Elizabeth Taylor and Richard Burton: she stood by him

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## Judge who lost his duel with vox populi

Public opinion forced ministers to pre-empt Lord Cullen's judicious report, says Magnus Linklater

A woman at auction £250 estimate comes painted dated Linco

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**T**here were surely times during the preparation of his report when Lord Cullen must have reached for his gavel, hammer on the bench and order "Silence in Court!"

Rarely can a public inquiry have been conducted against a background of such clamorous dissenting opinion. He has been subjected to intense pressure from parents and politicians. He has been under constant scrutiny from a rapacious media. His recommendations have been pre-empted by the very Government which commissioned him in the first place.

But through it all has come a report as meticulous in its dissection of the evidence as it is balanced in its conclusions. However it is used or misused, traduced or vilified, it is there on the record, as valuable in its assessment of gun laws, youth clubs or the security of our schools as his Piper Alpha report was on the safety of oil rigs at sea.

It is a measure of the man himself that he has appeared almost untouched by the conflict. I saw him last weekend at the Lyceum Theatre in Edinburgh, watching a rumbustious performance of *Cyrano de Bergerac*, relaxed and to all appearances at ease with himself. Lord Cullen is not a naturally gregarious man, but he is a witty companion and a great expert on the buildings of his native Edinburgh, about which he has written several books. There is always about him, however, a certain remoteness, a feeling that you would be wise not to presume too much on his friendship. That detachment, the natural quality of a good judge, is a useful ingredient in the debate now exploding around his report.

Whatever the political capital to be made out of an issue which should by rights have nothing to do with politics, however anguished the views of parents and teachers in Dunblane, Lord Cullen's findings will provide the essential sounding board for them all. When the new laws restricting the use and calibre of handguns are finally drawn up, it is he who will give them their framework. That, after all, is what he was appointed.

Throughout the report, he has looked at the implications of an outright ban on handguns. He found that there were real difficulties about it. "It is," he says, "necessary to decide what risk is acceptable, bearing in mind that some risk is an inevitable feature of daily life. Against the risk to society has to be balanced the loss of freedom of the individual..."

He concludes, after painstaking examination of all the alternatives, that he does not consider "the banning of handguns for target shooting or the banning of shooting clubs would be justified". Anyone who now continues to argue for more draconian measures will have to deal with his arguments. The need to reach a workable rather than just a popular solution, and the balancing of freedom

of action with the protection of children, were more important than simply responding to public opinion. That does not mean that there is a lack of natural sympathy towards those who had suffered. "He gave you great confidence in his impartiality," said one parent, "but equally you were aware that he was not immune to the sheer awfulness of what had happened."

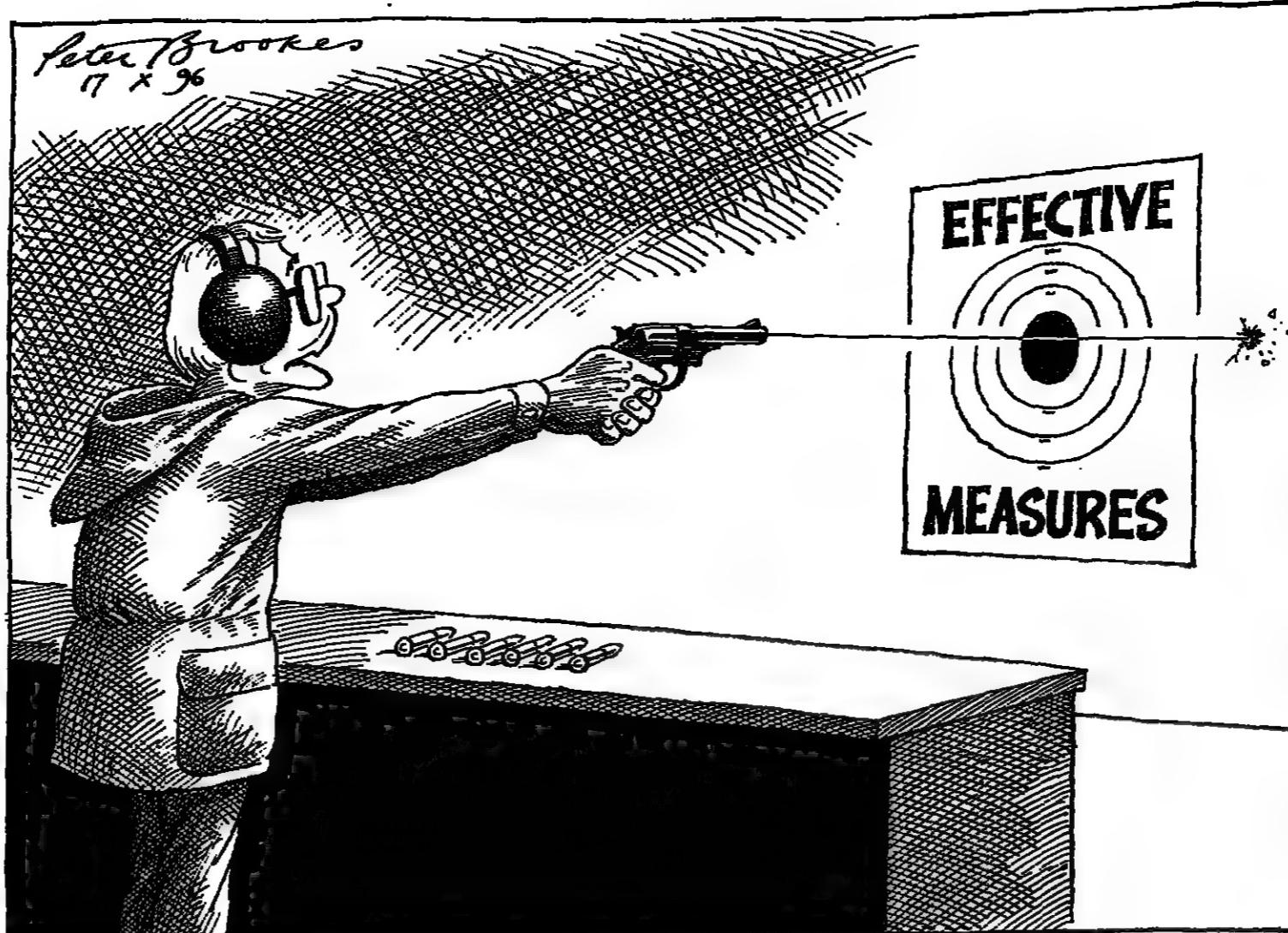
It became clear from an early stage that however sensible his conclusions, public opinion would not be content to wait for them. The very evidence that was presented to him about the proliferation of handguns and their capacity forced the pace. It spurred the parents into an increasingly high-profile campaign. Then, six weeks into the hearings, the Commons Home Affairs Committee divided down party lines and its Tory members indicated they would not be recommending a total ban on handguns. That helped to launch the hugely successful Snowdown campaign, which set the emotional tone of the debate, summed up by the parents' articulate spokeswoman Ann Pearson: "If legislation falls short of a complete ban, it shows that we and our children are expendable so that 57,000 target shooters can retain their right to pursue a sport that uses weapons designed to kill."

Like all successful slogans it was simplistic but effective.

Thereafter, any political response was measured against it. A curb on the ownership of handguns was not enough; a "complete ban on handguns" became the operative statement. Tony Blair indicated that he favoured it. The Scottish Secretary, Michael Forsyth, defending his tiny majority in Stirling, made it clear that he, too, was for strong action. David Mellor claimed that guns were now "the most important issue for years".

None of this helped to clarify the issues that Lord Cullen was wrestling with. What it meant, however, was that the moderate position, and the one which Lord Cullen favours, was soon eclipsed. Instead of "Wait for Cullen", the slogan became "We'll go further than Cullen." Many of the Dunblane parents and teachers have now reached the fundamentalist position, which urges a ban on the possession and ownership, not just of handguns but all guns, including shotguns and rifles. The present Government will not go that far. A Labour Government just might.

On the issue of handguns, and handguns alone, Lord Cullen has been overtaken by public opinion, and by a Government anxious not to be outplayed by the Opposition. But the groundwork that he has done has provided the essential foundation on which the new recommendations now rest. No politician worth his salt will be able to reach a conclusion without reference to his report. It is essential evidence and that is what a good judge is there to present to the jury of public opinion.



## Europe's fascist spectre

**F**ar-Right parties exploit Maastricht just as Hitler did the Versailles treaty

**T**here are only too many fascists, neo-fascists and quasi-fascists at large in Europe nowadays. I have talked to Gianfranco Fini, the leader of the Italian National Alliance Party, and I think he is genuinely an ex-fascist, but his party undoubtedly attracts the fascist audience. Umberto Bossi, the leader of the Italian Northern League, has fascist attributes, and is a threat to the unity of the Italian state. Jean Marie Le Pen's support is rising in France. Now Jörg Haider's Freedom Party has won 21.6 per cent of the vote in Austria's European elections, and the German Chancellor, Dr Helmut Kohl, has expressed his "deep concern". He is right to be worried.

For the last 50 years it has been embarrassing for people to express even the most qualified admiration for fascism, so horrible were the crimes of European fascism in the 1930s and 1940s. Yet some of the attributes of fascism have always been popular. If one had asked an intelligent Nazi in 1935 to make the case for Hitler, he would have talked about the need for leadership, about the weakness and corruption of the democracies, about the importance of building a strong community.

He would have cited the need to support youth and the family, about the regime's practical success in reducing unemployment, about the need to defend the State against alien threats and to restore Germany to a leading European place, about the need to save Europe itself from Soviet Communism, about the survival of the fittest, about the idealism which called on all Germans to serve their race and their leader.

In fact, these policies led to the war, the Gestapo, the concentration camps and the Holocaust. But that does not mean that they had no appeal at the time, or that similar arguments have no appeal now. Some of the Nazi arguments were, indeed, true. Hitler's economic programme after 1933 was rather more successful than Franklin Roosevelt's New Deal in reducing unemployment. The average non-Jewish German was almost certainly better off in 1935 than he had been when Hitler came to power. Foreign nations did again perceive Germany as a great power and reacted accordingly. In 1936, after his first term as President, Franklin Roosevelt was overwhelmingly re-elected, with his Republican rival only carrying two states. If Hitler had

faced re-election in the same year, he too would have won by a landslide. There are elements of fascist excitement even in successful democratic politics. President John F. Kennedy exploited aspects of the fascist appeal, the cult of youth, nationalism, the glamour of the leader, competitive ruthlessness, the emphasis on military power and on the threat from other military nations.

Adolf Hitler was neo-Darwinist who believed in the survival of the fittest, but so were the Kennedy's, even though they were democrats and not racists. If Hitler had not been responsible for the Holocaust, he would probably be a hero to many people in Europe today, just as Napoleon was a hero in France 50 years after Waterloo. The Holocaust was unforgivable and unanswerable; in itself the idea of a ruthless nationalist dictatorship has attracted many nations at different periods of history.

It is only if we understand the attractions of fascism that we can judge the danger of its returning. The most striking totalitarian regimes have been Communist Russia and China, Nazi Germany, Fascist Italy and Spain and Imperial Japan. All but one — China — are now defunct, though the Japanese Emperor is still head of state. All came after the failure of a previous regime. In the three West European countries, the regime which failed had been democratic. Hitler himself was able to come to power by more or less constitutional means, but he had his chance because of the failure of the Weimar Republic.

When democracy cannot deliver what the people want, the idea of dictatorship becomes popular. In 1933 German democracy was weakened by the slump, by the social destruction of the inflation of the 1920s, by high unemployment, by a pervading sense of moral decline, by the existence of extremist parties. Communists as well as Nazis, and by the loss of self-confidence of the leading democratic politicians. Those conditions plainly do not exist in

modern Germany. Unemployment is higher than it should be, but inflation is low, Germany is prosperous, there are no extremist parties in Parliament, and Chancellor Kohl is a figure of world authority. It is not in Germany that one would now fear a revival of European fascism: the defences of German democracy are strengthened by the memories of Nazism just as the mark is strengthened by the historic fear of inflation.

Democracy may be weaker in those European countries where fascism has already been able to establish an electoral position. Austria is a special case.

The Austrians have done less to re-examine their 20th-century history than almost any other European nation. They seem to pity themselves as the first victims of Hitler, when many of them were enthusiastic junior partners in the Third Reich. Herr Haider is not another Hitler — many of his policies are very different — but he does draw on the support of sections of the Austrian electorate whose parents or grandparents were mostly enthusiastic Nazis. Hitler himself drew on this right-wing tradition, including his anti-Semitism, and formed his own ideology in pre-1914 Vienna.

More worrying is the state of democracy in the three great Latin nations: France, Spain and Italy. In France and Italy there are already significant parties with fascist connections. In all three countries there is high unemployment, an eighth of the working population in France and Italy, a quarter in Spain. All three countries have serious corruption, with Italy's worst. All three have a public opinion disillusioned by the failures of elected politicians.

In all three one meets the Europeanism of despair; that is not a lack of faith in a strong and healthy European future, but a fear that without Europe the nations would collapse.

The Maastricht project for a single currency is making all three deflate their economies to try to meet the convergence criteria. Yet none of the

three will be able to meet the criteria in real terms, though France may meet them by creative accounting.

If the euro emerges as a strong currency, which is what the Germans want, then this deflation will have to continue. If it emerges as a weak currency, which is rather more likely, then Germany will have exchanged the mark for a pseudo-lira.

Anti-Semitism was not only a part of Hitler's propaganda, but expressed a deep psychological anxiety shared by many Germans and by Hitler himself. Similar fears about immigrant groups exist in most modern West European countries, not excluding Britain. These fears are felt particularly strongly by the French, who are alarmed by the North Africans in their midst. In a recent by-election near Marseilles, Jean-Marie Le Pen's National Front and the Communists between them took 64 per cent of the vote, humiliating the Socialists and Gaullists.

**W**illiam Rees-Mogg

should not exaggerate the stage of democratic failure that has been reached so far: 27.6 per cent in Austria is far from a majority. All that can yet be said is that some of the pre-conditions of democratic failure exist in some of the European countries. But suppose that in the early years of the next century there is a systemic failure of the European economy, because of high unemployment, because the euro is too strong or too weak, or because of a Europe-wide failure to meet low cost Asian competition. Suppose that resentment about unemployment and immigration is turned against Europe, that is when the national democratic failures become a European failure. Then the lifeboat will become a death trap.

The pre-condition of fascism is the failure of democracy. A sign of democratic failure is the desire to transfer power away from democratic bodies to unaccountable bodies, from the nations to Europe. Adding the national failures together will not create a successful Europe, though that is what the European Union is now planning to do.

A Europe-wide systemic failure of democracy would open the way for neo-fascism in the national electorates. We do not need to fear fascism because it is weak and repulsive, but because many people find it strong and attractive. Like the Devil himself, fascism is strong, attractive but deadly.

**A**nd what is in those bags? That is the mystery. The answer to what is in the hard briefcases is the easiest to give. Men travelling on the London Underground will sometimes open them on their knees for a moment, and you get a glimpse. They contain a copy of last night's *Evening Standard* and an apple, or a box of paper handkerchiefs and an apple. In brief, they contain nothing. Like all the other bags, they are power bags, carried purely for their own sake.

But that still leaves the question of what is in all the other bags, so visibly and tangibly packed. Not all the cosmetics and complementary pills in Boots could fill those women's bags. Are they stuffed with thermal vests, a year's copies of *Harper's & Queen*, a portable pregnancy test and a cardboard case of yoghurts? Even those could not produce a missile as heavy and lethal as some of the bags you see.

I have never owned a briefcase of any kind. From an early age I knew that if I got one, it would become as embodied a part of me as the nose and lip rings that you also see around you nowadays (though how hawlessly!) on the Tube.

I have never found that I really needed to carry anything to or from work with me, except from time to time when I wanted a book or two. To take several books does indeed pose a problem without a bag — they slip easily from under a tucked arm and damage their corners when they fall — and I acknowledge that I have had recourse at times to a plastic bag — something that I hate both seeing and carrying.

**B**ut I have a degree of sympathy for people who carry plastic bags, unattractive though they look. At least I know that they are carrying something for a genuine purpose — they could not possibly just be trying to make an impression. And if the contents could inflict an injury, at least the bag itself can do no harm.

It might be tempting to have a bag just as a means of defence, and indeed I have witnessed more than one resounding clash between bag carriers. But I do not let my thoughts go down that road. More often, though I am no lover of things Japanese, I simply long for the day — which like all things, is bound to come — when the bonsai bag comes into fashion.

However, I must confess to offence against my fellow pedestrians. On a rainy day, I cannot go a hundred yards down a street without hitting someone on the head with my umbrella.

**A nation clobbered by bag and baggage**  
Derwent May on the dangers of the power accessory

**I** was hit by bags four times coming into the offices of *The Times* at Wapping the other morning — once on the neck, once on the shoulder and twice on the hip. Big bags are the new British phenomenon. A blow from Lady Thatcher's handbag was a floatie compared with the danger one is now in on buses, trains and pavements.

It began, I think, with the hardened briefcase (or attaché case) — the wooden box-like small drawer covered in scaly black material, that men started carrying about two or three years ago. The soft leather briefcase melted away before it.

Challenge begot challenge, and women's handbags started creeping up in size until they were really not handbags at all. The last time I saw one of those authentic specimens was when several women put them down behind their chairs at our dinner-table, and our dog came and sniffed through them, tossing £5 notes and contact lenses in all directions.

Now almost all women carry strapped and buckled bags that are getting on for kitbag size. You could not put them under your dining chair now — they would have to go under the sideboard. Some women carry two or three bags, and walk with both arms permanently crooked to hold them.

All kinds of other bags have followed in their wake — valises for men to take to the office, big dumpling-like cloth bags tied with a string and slung from the shoulder, other gigantic shoulder-bags with fiercely-metalled corners for either sex to swing.

But the most widespread newcomer of all the fashionable backpack (once known as a rucksack) that has sprung up exactly like mushrooms on people's backs. It used to be "If you want to get ahead, get a hat", now it is "If you want to get ahead get a hum".

Children of two wear them, and every other age up to about 55. They are being manufactured in more and more varied designs. I had a near miss from the leg of one shaped like a teddy bear the other day.

I am not saying that people are less polite than they used to be. Most of them move their bodies delicately to avoid you, as courteous English people have always done. But they simply lack the instinct to allow for their excrescences. They swing round on the pavement to say something funny to their companion, and the backpack goes straight into a passer-by. They weave sensitively down the aisle of a bus, with their shoulder-bag striking every alternate person who is sitting down.

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## Scotch mist



**H**EATHCLIFF CLIFF RICHARD

"It was OK, but Summer Holiday's story was stronger"

APOLOGIES have arrived from Sir Nicholas Scott, MP for Chelsea, after his fabulously intoxicated showing at last week's Tory conference. He was found completely smashed and flat on his face on a Bournemouth street after a big night with the staff of the Irish Embassy. A combination of pain killers and alcohol, pleaded "Scotch" Scott — although those who have seen him pack it away at

constituency parties were not so convinced. Writing to his local association, Scott says: "I wanted to write to you as a member of the General Purposes Committee to say how deeply sorry I am for the problems which the events of the last week have caused. I have, unwittingly, hurt a lot of people; but I hope you will not believe everything you may have read in the press."

Scotch needs to do some sucking up for he will face one of the least impressive Referendum Party candidates, Robin Birley, in the general election. Fisures are already appearing among K & C's conservatives who represent some of the Referendums' ripest targets.

"I cannot turn the clock back," Scotch ends his letter, "and I know I will long regret the incident."

**P**ricey prance

ALWAYS one for the grand gesture, Kerry Packer, media magnate and ageing polo player, has bought the rights to Diana, Princess of Wales's visit to Australia. He is said to have paid £15 million to a hospital charity for exclusive



**D**IARY

media coverage of her visit this month.

The development follows my story earlier this month that James Packer, his square-jawed son, has his heart set on a dance with the Princess when she visits. Packer senior's generous gesture should ensure that Jamie gets his waltz.

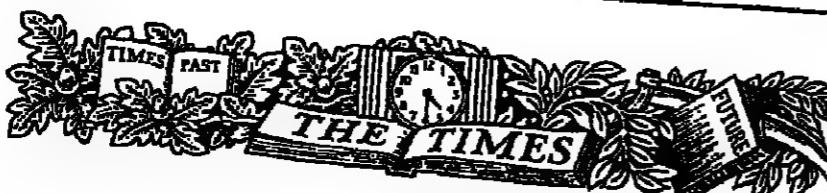
"I cannot turn the clock back," Scotch ends his letter, "and I know I will long regret the incident."

**A**rtful dodge

MODESTY overcame Sean Connery at the first night in London of Yasmina Reza's play *Art*, starring Albert Finney, Tom Courtenay and Kenneth Stott. He insisted that praise for its success was due not to

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THE TIMES THURSDAY OCTOBER 17 1996



## CULLEN'S CRAFT

Deep thought and feeling for the victims of Dunblane

The tragedy of Dunblane touched the nation. The suffering of parents robbed of their children prompted a desire for action. To minimise the risk of such an atrocity ever happening again, it is right that Parliament should respond speedily with legislation to protect the public. New laws are the least the Dunblane parents are due. A wise response, however, will acknowledge emotion's claim without allowing it to overwhelm. It is important that consequent legislation, conceived in justified anger, is considered with proper calm.

The possibility of any Act being introduced so soon after the killings is due in great measure to the skill, speed and thoroughness of Lord Cullen. His conduct of the inquiry into the tragic events of March 13 has secured the gratitude of all those affected and his report should also win him the thanks of legislators. Its recommendations will allow Parliament to introduce measures which should improve school safety, the operation of youth organisations and the licensing of firearms. Lord Cullen's proposals to train some and accredit all of those who work with young people are altogether welcome. The inquiry exposed the worrying ease with which a man like Thomas Hamilton could set up a boys' club and exercise unsupervised authority over the vulnerable young. Bureaucratic interference in civil associations is rarely welcome but this intervention in defence of children is absolutely necessary.

The other significant recommendations which should safeguard children are the proposals governing school security. It is reassuring that the Government is prepared to release money to allow improvements to be made. Lord Cullen's recommendations draw on the logic of his report into the explosion on the Piper Alpha oil rig. Investigating how safety procedures broke down with such appalling loss of life, he concluded that rather than an outside body laying down specific recommendations, it should be up to the operators of a platform to construct a "safety case" and argue that their independently generated plan would protect lives. By asking schools to prepare their own safety strategy and action plan Lord Cullen recognises that a single set of rules he might lay down cannot cover the wide variety of schools in the country. School safety should spring from hard thinking by teachers and the search for best practice rather than deep feeling.

## SIMPLE, SIGNORA

How Bonino can improve Europe's fisheries policy

This week, not for the first time, Britain and Spain clashed angrily over fish. The collision between Tony Baldry, the Fisheries Minister, and Loyola de Palacio, his hectoring Spanish counterpart (whose tackle derives more from rugby than from fishing), was messy proof of the gulf that still separates this country from other member states of the European Union on fundamental issues.

Radical reform of the common fisheries policy has long been needed. British fishermen have long needed more defence from the British government. Mr Baldry was correct to stand his ground this week on the vexed question of Spanish "quota-hoppers", even if it earned him the Iberian ire of Senor de Palacio. The conservation of Europe's depleted fish stocks cannot be now be properly accomplished without fundamental, and rapid, reform.

Emma Bonino, the EU's Fisheries Commissioner, is right to seek a cut in fishing fleets and the total allowable catch. Far too much fish is caught by far too many fishermen with far too few controls. Yet for Britain to accept a reduction in its fishing fleet, a way must be found to take account of the large, *de facto*, "reduction" which has occurred already: since foreign fishermen control 20 per cent of Britain's off-shore fleet tonnage, this country has operated for the last decade at only 80 per cent of its legitimate capacity. New fleet cuts would deplete that percentage still further.

There are two ways forward. Either bona fide British fishermen should be exempted from the proposed cuts, or the argument

passive adoption of new regulations. New regulation is, however, precisely what is needed to cover the licensing of guns.

Lord Cullen concedes in his report that even if police suspicions had led to Thomas Hamilton's gun licence being revoked he would have won it back on appeal. The proposals to insist on two references for any licence, to monitor better the weapons use of gun owners, to allow chief police officers to revoke licences and to make the appeal process tougher are all welcome. They should go a significant way to limiting the chances of lethal weapons being held in legal, but altogether unsuitable, hands.

But no licensing scheme, however tightly drawn, can prevent guns being misused. That is why Lord Cullen, the Government and the opposition parties are all right to argue, albeit to different degrees, for restrictions on the availability of handguns.

Handguns, unlike shotguns or rifles, are easy to conceal and are designed to kill people not animals. Although thousands enjoy innocent sport with handguns, many who use them are not restrained by the traditional taboos which influence those who stalk and shoot game with rifle and shotgun. An ugly subculture has developed which celebrates the power that handguns are supposed to confer. It is absolutely right to ensure that individuals are denied the weapons which Thomas Hamilton used to such devastating effect. There should be no place for semi-automatic weapons except on the battlefield or in the policeman's holster.

Indeed, the case for banning all handguns, as made by Labour, the Liberal Democrats, the SNP and the former Home Office Minister, David Mellor, is extremely persuasive. The Home Secretary is right, however, to draw attention to the unhappy history of absolute prohibition. By restricting ownership of handguns to those of low calibre which have long been used in sport and insisting they be held under stringent security in clubs, Mr Howard may be able to allow genuine sportsmen an outlet and prevent the driving of law-abiding individuals outside the law. Mr Straw's support for a total ban on handguns has the merit of simplicity and overwhelming popular support. But before any absolute ban is introduced MPs should reflect on whether there is a last case for caution. The victims of Dunblane deserve hard thinking as well as deep feeling.

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## SIMPLE, SIGNORA

How Bonino can improve Europe's fisheries policy

that these are already effectively in place. Or the Commission should impose the same cuts on the British fleet as on everyone else's, but do away with the "quota-hoppers". The second option is the better. The first option would not protect fish stocks, and would leave the question of "quota-hoppers" unanswered. The second option would tackle both fronts: it would ensure that fewer fish are caught by fewer fishermen, as well as ensuring that British fishermen enjoy the fruits of Britain's deep-sea resources. It would also serve as a template for the much-needed, top-to-bottom overhaul of the common fisheries policy.

Flags of fishing convenience — the very problem which the 1988 Merchant Shipping Act sought to address — are at the core of Europe's fishing crisis. The time has come for nationality and residence requirements for vessel owners, operators and employees. Fishing companies wishing to register in Britain must prove that their vessels are at least 75 per cent British-owned. This departure from free-market principles can be justified in terms of the alarmingly depleted, potentially non-renewable nature of the resource. This is a genuine emergency.

Britain cannot sit back and allow plunder to continue. It must fight against the European fisheries policy in the European way, with vigour, aggression, and the strongest resolve. The EU spends £400 million to subsidise Europe's enormous fishing fleet, a third of which is Spanish (excluding "quota-hoppers"). If Britain's fleet is cut, so must the Spanish subsidy be. It is as simple as that, Signora Bonino.

## BITTER HERITAGE

A few thoughts, minister, on preserving the great British pub

The Campaign for Real Ale says that the traditional British pub needs conservation just as much as stately homes and cathedrals. Never slow to jump on a popular beer wagon, Mrs Bottomley's Department of National Heritage may be preparing an inventory of historic public houses that preserve this unique British tradition. A first draft of the report has fortuitously found its way to *The Times*.

The Slug and Stradivarius (a vile inn) epitomises the cosy hospitality of the London pub, praised by writers from Dr Johnson to Charles Dickens. The regulars (many music students) crouch over the bar so densely that the irregular visitor has to semaphore his order across a wall three backs deep. Guest tables are a recent tradition, and are so flat that they serve them on a platter.

The Rover's in Manchester represents the mythical Never-Never-Tavern of Northern soap opera dreams. Mine Hosts, Vera and Jack Duckworth, are legendary, and as ageless as make-up and their agents can keep them. The snug may have gone. But Betty's hotpot is still top of the menu in this

age of the microwave, more popular even than such traditional dishes as Ploughman's with Kiwi fruit and chicken satay. The stars discuss their emotional problems while the extra mouth rhubarb. The view of Coronation Street cannot be missed.

Macbeth's Head at Stratford-upon-Avon combines the lure of the heritage trail with the attractions of Olde Englishe Taverne Fayre Spores. Pub games draw the coachloads. But the Bard's beer and skittles and Shakespeare's shave ha'penny have been replaced by Peruchio's pool tables. The spread of this traditional new game has added to the tight intimacy and back-chat that make the British pub imitable.

The Wearing of the Green is one of the new tradition of cool Irish pubs. The bar staff are given a course in stage Irish accents, and there are two barmaids on duty, one to serve drinks and the other to waffle ethnically and listen to blarney. The push-button till makes surprising profits, but they could sell even more stout if they filled the glasses properly. There are regular opportunities to contribute to traditional Irish charities.

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN Telephone 0171-782 5000

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### Handgun ban and risks to the public

From Mr Richard Warden

Sir, I suggest those who oppose the storage of most of the remaining handguns in clubs (reports, October 15, 16) have produced an argument in favour of the total prohibition of these weapons.

Dunblane and Hungerford have created an overwhelming view that, at minimum, private ownership should be banned because the risks to the public are unacceptable. If gun clubs argue that collective storage is not possible because it will create arsenals vulnerable to attack, then they are creating a position that has only one outcome: that any means of storing handguns in the UK carries unacceptable risks. The only course of action, then, is a complete ban on these weapons.

Proposals to tighten the procedures for issuing firearms certificates are not, on their own, going to satisfy people. Already the BMA has rejected the proposal for medical references (report, August 13) on the grounds that such a procedure would be unreliable.

So far there has been a disappointing response from handgun owners: negative responses to possible solutions, discreditable statements made about one of the Dunblane parents, and the subsequent loss of support from Sebastian Coe, MP (report, September 12), and calls for compensation for loss of weapons if there is a ban (with no thought of compensation for the victims).

If the attitude of the gun lobby is as self-interested as it appears to me, then a total ban is the only answer.

Yours faithfully,  
RICHARD WARDEN,  
2 Waterlow Way, Bredon,  
Tewkesbury, Gloucestershire.  
October 16.

From Mr Mark Marsh

Sir, A shotgun in a confined space can be as deadly as a handgun. Why then have the Government and Labour Party moved towards a total ban of handguns but not shotguns? The difference is that a pressure group has spent the last seven months calling for the banning of shotguns. The Snowdrop campaign frequently aired and emotionally charged arguments does not stand up to scrutiny.

Had Thomas Hamilton walked into Dunblane Primary School with a shotgun, easily concealed in sawn-off form, he could have caused as much death and misery as he did with a handgun. Despite this Snowdrop have set about convincing politicians and members of the public that all handgun owners are potential mass murderers.

This apparent decision has, I'm convinced, more to do with vote-winning than trying to prevent another tragedy.

Yours faithfully,  
MARK MARSH,  
3 Columbus Square,  
Manor Road, Erdington, West Midlands.

From Mr Noel Falconer

Sir, As well as limiting handguns I am glad to see the Government is to restrict certain ammunition.

Any bullet can strike a vital part of the human body: but strong, sharp-pointed target rounds otherwise tend to enter and leave cleanly, inflicting less than lethal wounds.

Anti-personnel bullets — the "dum-dums" banned in war — expand or disintegrate on impact, aggravating the direct damage and transferring their entire energy to the victim, to kill.

It would be difficult and also unfortunate to gather the facts in narrow financial terms; we are as proud of those who are teaching or working for the success of our weak as of our scholars, industrialists and financiers.

For a Christian, achievement is not to be measured simply in terms of social status or financial success. However, anecdotal evidence among Old

Yours sincerely,  
NOEL FALCONER,  
223 Bramhall Moor Lane,  
Hazel Grove, Stockport SK7 4JL.

From Mr David J. Jones

Sir, In the understandable concern over the possession and use of handguns there is a danger of overlooking the other ingredient that made Thomas Hamilton lethal: his obsessive and unhealthy interest in young boys which for many years went unchecked and which the police were apparently unable to address because he had not been convicted of an offence.

The crime Bill, to be put before Parliament shortly, is likely to lead to the introduction of a register of convicted paedophiles (letter, October 15) and to make it an offence for them to seek work which involves access to children. Neither of these measures, though desirable, would have been effective to curtail Hamilton's activities.

Parliament should therefore give consideration to a system of registration of clubs and other voluntary organisations in which adults have direct dealings with children. It should be a criminal offence for adults to organise youth clubs without obtaining such registration.

This would give parents the reassurance of knowing that their children were in safe hands and the police the means to deal with those, such as Hamilton, who clothe their obsessions under the guise of an interest in the welfare of young people.

Yours faithfully,  
DAVID J. JONES,  
The Coach House, Pabo,  
Llandudno Junction, Conwy.

### Publisher's verdict on Gerry Adams

From Mr Steve MacDonogh

Sir, On October 7 both your leading article and a report by Nicholas Wariner of *Before the Dawn* by Gerry Adams (letter, October 12)

I have been Mr Adams's editor and publisher since 1982. In none of his books published to date is there any recommendation of violence, nor is there any attempt to portray violence, to rid ourselves of the 30,000 armed personnel in the pay of the British Government, and to rid ourselves of the irregular forces of the IRA, the UDA, the INLA and the UVF.

I have absolutely no apology to make for publishing the writings of Gerry Adams. On the contrary, I believe that they can contribute to understanding, as well as censorship worked to frustrate understanding. I have come to know Gerry Adams quite well over the years and I know with certainty that his determination now is, as it has been for some years, to bring about a peaceful resolution of the conflict.

Before the Dawn conveys in graphic detail the behaviour and activities of those whom you support so enthusiastically — successive British governments which have used the violence of combat troops in an allegedly policing role. It is therefore not surprising that you seek to denigrate the book, its publishers and author.

Irish and British commentators can argue the toss till kingdom come, weighing civilian deaths in IRA

bombings against civilians gunned down by Paras. People can read Mr Adams's account and set it against the perspective offered by publications such as your own.

But in the end what matters most for all the people of both our islands is how we arrange our political relationships in the future to remove political violence, to rid ourselves of the 30,000 armed personnel in the pay of the British Government, and to rid ourselves of the irregular forces of the IRA, the UDA, the INLA and the UVF.

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Yours etc.  
STEVE MACDONOGH  
(Editorial Director),  
Brandon Book Publishers,  
Dingle, Co Kerry.  
October 14.

### Censorship on the Elizabethan stage

From Professor Patrick Collinson

Sir, You report (October 11) the discovery of a Privy Council letter of 1589, initiating state censorship of the Elizabethan theatre.

Your readers may like to know what this was about: not the general *Zeigeist*, as proposed by David Starkey of the LSE, nor Marlowe's *Tamburlaine*, as suggested by Dr Beal of Sotheby's, but a very particular and peculiar set of circumstances.

In 1588-89 the bishops of the Church of England were lampooned by the pseudonymous Martin Marprelate in a series of brilliant and seductive tracts. It was the bright idea of a clergyman called Richard Bancroft to employ the literary hack of the day to respond in the same coin, not only in print but in jigs and, as it were, little pantomimes, in which Martin Marprelate was "lanced and wormed" in the public theatres.

These were the "cenem matters of divinitie . . . unfit to be suffered" of which the Council complained, and which Francis Bacon deplored in a veiled attack on Bancroft. However, Bancroft's career was not damaged, and in 1604 he became Archbishop of Canterbury.

Yours etc.  
PAT COLLINSON,  
Trinity College, Cambridge.  
October 12.

### A matter of dates

From Mr Andrew Neil

Sir, I was pleased to learn from your interestingly-timed interview with Pamela Stephenson (October 15) that she has now found respectable employment. You wrongly report, however, that I dated her in the summer of 1989. In fact it was the summer of 1988.

The scandal surrounding her break in the *Newspaper of World* in February, 1989, almost six months after I had broken up with her. It follows that your caption under a picture of us together, which you say shows us "during the Commons scandal", is also wrong. By the time the story broke we had not met for several months — nor have we since.

I was also intrigued by the headline on your interview: "How I learnt to survive after the Andrew Neil affair". I'm grateful for the publicity but it is not her brief affair with me that she has had to overcome — which was a normal, if somewhat tempestuous, single man dates single girl arrangement — but the subsequent revelation that, unknown to me, she was a prostitute.

You will find all these matters accurately documented in my forthcoming book.

Yours sincerely,  
ANDREW F. NEIL,  
Hong Kong Parkview,  
Reservoir Road, Hong Kong.  
October 16.

### Testing times

From Mrs A. W. Jones

Sir, A postscript to Dr Farrer's letter (October 10): on Saturday, July 12, 1930, Bradman added 25 runs before being caught at Duckworth, bowled Tate, for 334 and my sister and I saw it all happen — we were quite small but have never forgotten it.

How many of the other spectators on that day are still watching cricket (terrestrially)?

Yours faithfully,  
BARBARA JONES,  
11 Guildford Avenue,  
Walton, Chesterfield, Derbyshire.  
October 10.

### Dim view

From Mr Alun Morgan</p



## COURT CIRCULAR

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## BUCKINGHAM PALACE

October 16: The President of the Republic of Moldova and Mrs Sogur visited The Queen.

His Excellency Señor Fernando Andrade Diaz-Durán was received in audience by Her Majesty and presented the Letters of Recall of his predecessor and his own Letters of Credence as Ambassador to the Court of St James's.

Señor de Andrade was also received by The Queen.

Sir John Coles (Permanent Under-Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs) was present.

Mr Christian Adams was received by Her Majesty.

Mr Justice Sumner was received by The Queen upon his appointment as a Justice of the High Court when Her Majesty conferred upon him the honour of Knighthood and invested him with the insignia of a Knight Bachelor.

His Excellency Mr Leif Blomqvist and Mrs Blomqvist were received in farewell audience by The Queen and took leave upon His Excellency relinquishing his appointment as Ambassador from the Republic of Finland to the Court of St James's.

The Queen and The Duke of Edinburgh were entertained at Dinner this evening by the Ambassador from the United States of America (His Excellency Admiral William Crowe, Jr) and Mrs Crowe at Winfield House, Regent's Park, London NW1.

His Royal Highness, Admiral of the Fleet, this morning attended a briefing for Admirals of the Fleet at the Ministry of Defence and afterwards attended a Luncheon at Admiralty Arch, The Mall, London SW1.

BUCKINGHAM PALACE

October 16: The Princess Royal, Patron, this afternoon visited the House of St Barnabas in Soho, 1 Greek Street, London W1, to mark the 150th Anniversary of its foundation.

Her Royal Highness, Patron of the Florence Nightingale Museum Trust, this evening attended a Reception and Concert at the Mansion House, London EC4.

## Birthdays today

Mr Colin Bailey, Chief Constable, Nottinghamshire, 33; Mr Harry Carpenter, sports commentator, 71; Sir Sydney Chapman, MP, 61; Mr Jonathan Charkham, former Adviser to the Governor of the Bank of England, 66; Dr Alexander Cooke, physician, 97; the Earl of Dalhousie, KT, 82; Mr Shaun Edwards, rugby league player, 30; Lady Whilton, former chairman, Christian Aid, 60; Mr Alan Garner, author, 62; Sir Ralph Gibson, former Lord Justice of Appeal, 74; Sir Christopher Harding, chairman, Legal and General, 57; Mrs Ann Jenkins player, 88; Miss Margo Kidder actress, 76; Lord Kilmorack, 76; Mr Stephen Kovacevich, pianist, 56; Mr Michael Lord, MP, 58; Sir Cameron Mackintosh, musical producer, 50; Mr Arthur Miller, playwright, 81; Mr A.W. Rudge, chairman, Engineering and Physical Sciences Research Council, 59; Mr Vic Serebrikoff, honorary president, Menas International, 84; Mr B.D. Taylor, former chief executive, Glaxo Holdings, 61.

## Service dinners

RN Reserve Officers' Dining Club

Vice-Admiral Sir James Weatherhead, Marshal of the Diplomatic Corps, proposed the toast to *'The Immortal Memory at a Tradigal ladies' night dinner held last night on board HQS Wellington'*. Captain F. Ashe Lincoln presided.

The Light Infantry Major-General Michael Regan presided at the annual dinner of the Light Infantry Club held last night at the Cavalry and Guards Club.

## Service reunion

Clover Club

Members of the Clover Club (8th Indian Division) and their ladies attended the annual reunion held yesterday at HM Tower of London. Mr Philip Brooks presided. Mr Tim Dodwell, president, was among those present.

## Eton luncheon

The Lyndton Club held a luncheon yesterday in Election Chamber, Eton. The Earl of Malmesbury, the Right Rev S.W. Phillips, Mr J.R. Pope, Mr J.C. Faulkner, Mr A.J. Grieveson and Mr A.J.W. Lewis were among those present.

## Prime Minister

The Prime Minister was the host yesterday at a luncheon held at 10 Downing Street in honour of the President of Chile. Among those present were:

Senor José Miguel Insulza, Senor Alvaro García, the Ambassador of Chile, Senor Bernardo Subercaseaux, Senor Tomás Jocelyn-Hold, Mr Malcolm R. Hold, QC, MP, Mr Alan Johnson, MP, Mr Ed George, Mr Frank Wheeler and Mr Edward Gaunt.

## Carmen Mayor

The Lord Mayor was a speaker at a luncheon of the Carmen's Company held yesterday at Painter's Hall after a court meeting when Mr J.M.B. Goich was installed Master of the Carmen's Company. Mr J.E. Randell was installed Senior Warden and Mr B.J. Hooper as Junior Warden. The Master, Mr C.W. Lloyd and Mr J.G. Davis also spoke at the luncheon.

## GOLDEN ANNIVERSARIES

The Lyndton Club held a luncheon yesterday in Election Chamber, Eton. The Earl of Malmesbury, the Right Rev S.W. Phillips, Mr J.R. Pope, Mr J.C. Faulkner, Mr A.J. Grieveson and Mr A.J.W. Lewis were among those present.

## PERSONAL COLUMN

BMDS: 0171 680 6880

PRIVATE: 0171 481 4000

## People do not say to have the truth, that those whom God has chosen enjoy his grace and mercy and that he can help us in our helplessness. Witness of Endorsement 4 : 15

## BIRTHS

AGNEW - On October 12th, to Sheila (née Gilmore) and Andrew Agnew, a son, Daniel, a sister for Megan.

ALEXANDER - On October 12th, to Mandy (née Nickle) and Andrew Alexander, a beautiful daughter, Elizabeth Anne, a sister for Joanne.

ANDERSON - Matthew and Vicki (née Birrell) are overjoyed at the arrival of Phoenix Eleanor Louise, born on September 26th, to Fortis Park Hospital, London. A much loved brother for Thomas.

BODEN - On October 10th, to Sophie (née Lampard) and John, a daughter, Katherine, a son, James and a twin.

BUNN - On October 8th, to James and Mary (née Sims), a son, Samuel Charles, born at home. A much loved brother for Thomas.

BUTCHER - On 10th October 1996, in Waterloo, Ontario, to Stephen (née Dohler) and Kevin, a son, Liam.

CONCAH - On October 5th, at St Paul's Church, Liverpool, to Jonathan, a daughter, Katie, a son, Daniel and a twin.

DARREN - On October 14th, to Helen (née Valentine), Lt. Col. Darren, a son, Edward, a twin, a brother for Ruth, Benedict, a brother for Ruth, Hannah and Joshua.

DAWES - Andrea Maike born at The Portland Hospital on October 10th to Sandra and Darren Dawes.

GUTHRIE - On October 14th, to Helen (née McIntyre) and Sean, a son, Finnegan, a brother for Ruth, and a daughter, Alessandra.

HOLMES - On 13th October, to Linda (née Fletcher) and Lee, a son, Benedict, a brother for Ruth, Kevin, a son, Liam.

POWER - On 1st October 1996, to Alison (née Murphy) and David, a son, Finnegan, a brother for Ruth, and a daughter, Alessandra.

REDFERN - On 13th October, to Linda (née Fletcher) and Lee, a son, Benedict, a brother for Ruth, Kevin, a son, Liam.

ROBERTS - On 13th October, to Linda (née Fletcher) and Lee, a son, Benedict, a brother for Ruth, Kevin, a son, Liam.

SCOTT - On 13th October, to Linda (née Fletcher) and Lee, a son, Benedict, a brother for Ruth, Kevin, a son, Liam.

THOMAS - On 13th October, to Linda (née Fletcher) and Lee, a son, Benedict, a brother for Ruth, Kevin, a son, Liam.

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## OBITUARIES

## BIRGER LUNDE

Birger Lunde, wartime Norwegian Merchant Navy officer, died in New York on September 24 aged 82. He was born near Bergen, on October 13, 1913.

In a contribution to the British war effort which was out of all proportion to Norway's tiny population, Birger Lunde was one of thousands of his country's seamen who helped to keep supply lines open throughout the Battle of the Atlantic. It is not generally realised what epic sacrifices were made by the Norwegian merchant fleet between 1940 and 1945, nor what a massive difference Norwegian ships made to the supply situation in Britain's most desperate hours.

When the Germans invaded Norway in April 1940 more than 1,000 Norwegian merchant ships were at sea. They sailed without hesitation to British ports to place themselves at the disposal of their ally on charter. In spite of being offered huge financial inducements by Germany to become part of its merchant marine, Britain thus acquired at a stroke the services of the world's fourth largest merchant navy. As Churchill was later to write: "Getting the Norwegian ships during the darkest days of the war was the equivalent of getting in England a trained and equipped army of one million men."

In fact, the apparent hyperbole probably underestimated the situation. Throughout the entire war Norwegian merchant ships carried over 40 per cent of all the oil brought into Britain plus similarly great amounts of ammunition, food and other vital supplies.

But the Norwegian sailors paid heavily. One fifth of the crews perished over the five years from May 1940; many men survived only with nerves shattered beyond repair. Lunde himself was sunk three times, nearly dying of exposure in an open boat on one occasion and being severely wounded on another.

Like so many of his compatriots in a country with a strong seafaring tradition, Birger Lunde was determined to go to sea from an early age and trained as a cadet in a square rigger. Like all Norwegian merchant marine officers, he worked his way up through the ranks and by the



time war broke out in 1939 he was a second mate.

When Norway was invaded Lunde was at sea in the *Taranger* which, in spite of German bombardments, sailed, like other Norwegian ships, for an English port. She almost immediately took part in the evacuation of Allied troops from Channel ports after the defeat of the British and French armies, and was badly damaged by *Lufwaffe* dive-bombing attacks in Le Havre harbour in June 1940. Thereafter she was thrown into the Battle of the Atlantic, carrying supplies between Canadian ports and Liverpool.

For a year *Taranger* and her crew led a charmed life. But on May 2, 1941, her luck ran out, when she was attacked by a U-boat which surfaced and was able to shell her, unarmed as she was, with impunity. Hit repeatedly by 4-inch shells, *Taranger* was soon in a sinking condition and the lifeboats were launched.

In Lunde's boat was a wounded English crewman with a large chunk of shrapnel embedded in his foot. Since

officers of Lunde's seniority were expected to be medically knowledgeable, he sterilised a large sheath knife over a flame and, during a bitter cold night in an open boat, cut out the shrapnel while three burly Norwegian sailors pinned the patient down on a thwart. Lunde was greatly impressed by the Englishman's stoicism, while the patient was later to acknowledge in a BBC interview his gratitude for the "proper professional job" the Norwegian officer had made of his foot.

Picked up after two days at sea by a British corvette, Lunde was eventually brought back to England via Reykjavik. After a short period with British Coastal Forces, he shipped as first mate in the freighter *Blink*. But in February 1942 she was torpedoed during a storm off Cape Hatteras, North Carolina. Only one boat could be launched and two dozen men scrambled into it. A grim ordeal lay ahead of them.

In Lunde's boat was a wounded English crewman with the few provisions the men

had managed to lay their hands on. When they righted with water in the heavy seas, and as their strength ebbed in the bitter cold they could not hold out. Men soon began to die. Black despair gripped those who lived.

To try to improve the stability of the waterlogged boat the survivors were compelled to leave the dead overboard.

This attracted sharks whose attempts to pull the emaciated survivors out of their frail craft only added to the horrors of the ordeal. By the time they were picked up by an American merchant ship only six of the original two dozen in the lifeboat remained alive.

Landed in New York, Lunde spent some time in hospital and then convalescing. But he had lost all his money and clothing with the loss of the *Blink* and he could not afford to stay onshore in such an expensive city. Soon he was shipping again, this time in the *Oregon Express* (a Norwegian vessel notwithstanding her name). In spite of her reputation for a turn of speed

that was supposed to render her invulnerable to submarines, she too had been sunk within the year.

The new German acoustic homing torpedoes were her undoing. Getting in among a convoy in which Oregon Express was steaming, a U-boat sank the two ships directly ahead of her. As she slowed and turned to avoid the wreckage she was struck almost amidships. She swiftly capsized under the weight of her heavily sandbagged bridge and, as she heeled over on her beam ends, Lunde and his captain were able to step from it straight into the water.

Lunde had, however, sustained severe injuries. Picked out of the sea, he was taken to Nova Scotia and then to hospital in New York. But in spite of the fact that he had a badly-damaged spine, broken ribs and collarbone and a dislocated knee, the need for experienced officers was so great that he was compelled to return to sea, this time in the *SS Polariand*. It was only after a further three months on convoy duty that he was permitted to come ashore and have the extensive surgery he so desperately needed.

For the rest of his life the steel pins he had inserted in his spine triggered the alarm whenever he passed through airport security. For the remainder of his war Lunde worked in the office of Norrtorpship, the company through which the Norwegian merchant vessels were chartered. There he had the grisly task of informing next of kin, whenever a crewman was lost at sea.

After the war he took American citizenship. He was to be back in combat zones in the Korean War during which he skippered an American cargo ship. Dangerous though this could be, often involving close inshore work within range of enemy batteries, he found it child's play compared to the horrors of the U-boat war.

The singular Norwegian contribution to the Battle of the Atlantic was recognised in a BBC television programme *Timewatch: Forgotten Heroes*, in 1994. Lunde had been awarded the St Olav Medal with Oak Leaves by King Haakon for his leadership following the sinking of the *Blink*.

His wife Mildred died in 1991. He is survived by his son John.

## ALAN TYRER

Alan Tyrer, CBE, Head of English Translation at the European Court of Justice, 1973-83, died in Portugal on September 14 aged 78. He was born in Wigan on June 30, 1918.

A POLYGLOT who in the course of a long and varied life mastered some nine European languages, Alan Tyrer brought to his position at the European Court of Justice great linguistic talent combined with a sound understanding of the law. He shouldered responsibility not only for the translation into English of the court's judgments as they were delivered, but also for a 20-year backlog of cases which had been decided before the accession of Ireland and the United Kingdom to the EEC.

A superb prescriptive grammarian and a keen member of the Queen's English Society,

who treasured language as a precise instrument of communication, Tyrer set exacting standards for his staff. But he secured their devotion through his fairness and mischievous sense of humour. On his retirement from the post in 1983 he was appointed CBE in recognition of his services to Europe.

Alan Kendrick Tyrer mastered his first two foreign languages as an undergraduate at Selwyn College, Cambridge, where he read French and German. Later he went on to study law and was called to the Bar by the Middle Temple in 1947. But, with the outbreak of the Second World War, his linguistic skill — especially his command of the German language — proved invaluable and he was posted to Bleachley Park to join the codebreakers.

On demobilisation he went to work for a brief period for the Home Office in the Royal

Pardons department, before moving on as parliamentary draftsman to Jersey where, for eight years, he drafted legislation in both English and French.

After this, he took a job for four years as an assistant company secretary but continued to maintain his linguistic interests. While teaching at night school, Tyrer discovered

that he had a vocation for teaching which he decided to take up full-time. He became head of the Modern Languages Department at Bridgewater Girls' Grammar School and, after a further four years, returned to his home county, Lancashire, to teach at Queen Mary School, Lytham. There, for 11 years up to the summer of 1973, he was head of the Modern Languages Department. The examination pass rate of his pupils was, perhaps unsurprisingly, remarkably high.

Out of interest and love for languages, Tyrer decided to learn Dutch and Italian. Then, out of necessity, when the Spanish teacher left the school unexpectedly, he taught himself Spanish during the holidays so that he would be able to take over her teaching responsibilities when the next term began. After poring over the textbooks throughout the

Easter vacation, he helped his sixth form students to achieve good examination results by always keeping three weeks ahead of them in the book — though none of them were ever to suspect this.

After the entry of the United Kingdom into the EEC in 1973, the European Court of Justice held an open competition to recruit lawyer linguists. Tyrer entered and was quickly appointed as the court's first Head of English Translation. Put in charge of a team of lawyers, all feeling their way in new territory, he built up an effective and competent department which he was to run for ten years.

Even after retiring to Portugal in 1983, Tyrer was not content simply to occupy himself with cultivating his garden. He learnt Portuguese and also embarked on a new career as a freelance translator. For some years until the time of his death, he assisted the court's English translation division by fielding, with his customary relish and professional skill, large amounts of translation. He was also studying Finnish which, he argued, is arguably, the most difficult of all European languages to learn.

Alan Tyrer is survived by his wife, Linda, herself a gifted linguist and translator, and by two daughters from his previous marriage.

That Vafopoulos's work is

## LAURA LA PLANTE

Laura La Plante, silent film actress, died on October 14, aged 91. She was born on November 1, 1904.

LAURA LA PLANTE was the blonde star of countless breezy comedies during the 1920s. For six years, from 1924 to 1930, she reigned at Universal as no actress was to do until the arrival of Deanna Durbin in the 1930s. When she was not acting she came across as rather taciturn young woman. She was also chronically short-sighted. But the camera worked its magic and transformed her into a sparkling comedienne.

In Britain she was so popular that when a debate was staged in the House of Lords on the possibility of taxing American productions, one member testily complained that he did not want to be stopped from seeing Laura La Plante in British theatres.

Laura La Plante (her real name was born in St Louis, where her father was a dancing teacher. The family were, she said, "horribly horribly poor" and, after her parents had divorced, she and her mother, went to stay with her mother's family in California. She made her first film in 1919, less from ambition than from a need to add to the family coffers. There followed a year at Fox in 1921, where she was miscast in a series of Westerns. She never did learn to ride a horse properly but, by having a rope strapped around her legs and saddle, she contrived to stay on.

She arrived at Universal in 1922, for a part in the *Perils of Yukon*, and more roles in two

reel comedies and Westerns. Irving Thalberg, who was then leaving Universal for MGM, asked her to come with him. She had no official contract with Universal yet, but naively felt she had given her word and therefore must stay.

In the event, her loyalty was rewarded. After several Westerns, as Hoot Gibson's leading lady, the British comedian Reginald Denny chose her as his romantic interest in *Sporting Youth* (1924) — her first real break at the age of 19. The following year she made *Skinner's Dress Suit* again with Denny. It was the sort of role she was made for — the modern, upwardly mobile, suburban wife, who, like Denny, was slightly beyond her means and is always able to outwit a bumbling husband.

One scene in the film, in particular, where La Plante learns to dance to the *Charleston*, completely captured the effervescent spirit of the new jazz age. By the mid-1920s La Plante was Universal's biggest star and was making \$5,000 a week. She was able to buy a house opposite Louella Parsons in Beverly Hills.

La Plante's best film was *The Cat and the Canary* (1927), most famous for incorporating the techniques of German Expressionism into the archetypal spooky comedy. Paul Leni, the German director, had problems with the English language but somehow gesticated his points across to his actors. La Plante, who played the heiress to a haunted house, was charming — "simple, natural and highly intelligent" as the usually critical writer Jim Tully described her. The result

of her success was *The Cat* and *The Canary* (1927), most famous for incorporating the techniques of German Expressionism into the archetypal spooky comedy. Paul Leni, the German director, had problems with the English language but somehow gesticated his points across to his actors. La Plante, who played the heiress to a haunted house, was charming — "simple, natural and highly intelligent" as the usually critical writer Jim Tully described her. The result



## GEORGE VAFOPOULOS

George Vafopoulos, Greek poet, died in Thessaloniki on September 16 aged 93. He was born on August 24, 1903.

IN A COUNTRY whose modern literature consists almost entirely of poetry — which is popular in a manner inconceivable to the rest of Europe where the craft of verse writing has been marginalised to the point of extinction — George Vafopoulos nevertheless ploughed a lone furrow. This may have had something to do with the fact that he was not of the Athens-based school of poets of which Seferis was the centre and of which the recently deceased Nobel laureate Odysseus Elytis was a vital member.

After the entry of the United Kingdom into the EEC in 1973, the European Court of Justice held an open competition to recruit lawyer linguists. Tyrer entered and was quickly appointed as the court's first Head of English Translation. Put in charge of a team of lawyers, all feeling their way in new territory, he built up an effective and competent department which he was to run for ten years.

Even after retiring to Portugal in 1983, Tyrer was not content simply to occupy himself with cultivating his garden. He learnt Portuguese and also embarked on a new career as a freelance translator. For some years until the time of his death, he assisted the court's English translation division by fielding, with his customary relish and professional skill, large amounts of translation. He was also studying Finnish which, he argued, is arguably, the most difficult of all European languages to learn.

Alan Tyrer is survived by his wife, Linda, herself a gifted linguist and translator, and by two daughters from his previous marriage.

That Vafopoulos's work is

not better known outside Greece is much to do with this relative isolation within the country — and a lack of good translations, especially into English. Yet the Thessaloniki "school" — if it can be so called — had some advantages over its Athenian counterpart. Its members were mainly prose writers and it was alive to developments in the European novel, such as the work of Kafka, whose procedures Vafopoulos was able to assimilate into his poetry.

It too, had its own magazine, *Macedonian Letters*, which Vafopoulos edited from 1924. One of Vafopoulos's early achievements was to recognise the unique genius of Cavafy, who moved between Thessaloniki and of the work that follows. The volume is pervaded by a sense of acute emotional states — intense longing; the pangs of parting and solitude; the agonies of love. Death, especially, haunts his lyrics in a way which recalls the obsessive, dark romanticism of Edgar Allan Poe.

Of the volumes that succeeded *The Roses of Myrtali* perhaps *The Flower* (1951) exemplifies Vafopoulos at his most characteristic and most powerful. In spite of his frequent use of a highly literary style he is also capable of great simplicity. In his shorter lyrics his elaborate poetics give way to single images placed on the page in a manner which conveys an almost tangible suffering.

A translation into English of his collected poems is currently being prepared for publication at the Dionysis Press, Edinburgh.

Vafopoulos leaves his widow, whom he married in 1946, and two sons.

Both he and his wife Anastasia, whom he married in 1946, were generous benefactors of

the arts and between them established the Vafopoulos Arts Centre at Thessaloniki.

Vafopoulos began to write in the 1920s and went on to produce 12 books of poetry as well as plays and critical studies. He also published five volumes of autobiography covering the years 1930 to 1964, an essential guide to literary life as it flourished in that period.

But the poetry is his legacy. As the Greek scholar Thanasis Papathanasiou observes, his earliest poems, collected as *The Roses of Myrtali* (1931), constitute a "genetic pool" for all of the work that follows. The volume is pervaded by a sense of acute emotional states — intense longing; the pangs of parting and solitude; the agonies of love. Death, especially, haunts his lyrics in a way which recalls the obsessive, dark romanticism of Edgar Allan Poe.

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# THE TIMES TODAY

THURSDAY OCTOBER 17 1996

## NEWS

### Dunblane parents pledge to fight on

The parents of Dunblane last night pledged to continue their fight to have all handguns banned after the Government announced the most drastic firearm curbs yet in response to the massacre of 16 children and their teacher last March.

Some 160,000 of the 200,000 handguns held legally in Britain — including all automatic weapons — will have to be handed in and destroyed, but that did not satisfy the families, who insisted that there should be no compromise ..... Pages 1, 4, 5

**British lobbyists to boost Gaddafi image**

A British political lobbying company has been hired by Colonel Muammar Gaddafi to improve Libya's image and end its international isolation. The disclosure, only weeks after the latest cash-for-questions affair, will cause further controversy about the activities of lobbyists ..... Page 1

### Royal costs cut

The Queen is to cut costs by assuming direct financial control of the Royal Family's travel arrangements. She will take over from the two government departments ..... Page 2

### Sleaze inquiry

MPs have approved an investigation into allegations that a Government minister sought to influence a Commons committee of inquiry into the cash-for-questions affair ..... Page 2

### Celine killer jailed

The father of Celine Figard spoke movingly of the beautiful daughter he had lost as Stuart Morgan, a lorry driver, began a life sentence for her murder ..... Page 3

### Hitler work sold

A watercolour of Vienna attributed to Adolf Hitler has been auctioned in Lincolnshire for £2,500, almost three times the estimate ..... Page 6

### Bart's to close

Britain's oldest hospital, St Bartholomew's in London, will close by 2001, the chairman of the NHS trust which manages it. The trust announced a £300-million plan to build a new hospital ..... Page 8

### Bullied to death

Police are investigating the death of a "brilliant" Sikh schoolboy who hanged himself days after describing in an essay the misery of being bullied ..... Page 9

### Undertakers offer gems to die for

An American undertaker is launching a line of fashion jewellery crafted specially for the bereaved. The range of brooches and necklaces, including broken heart designs and teardrops, will be unveiled at next week's US National Funeral Directors' convention in Ohio. The items are hollowed out and filled with a sample of the dead person's ashes ..... Page 12



A humpback whale calf is manoeuvred back into open water off Queensland yesterday after it became trapped in an anti-shark net

## BUSINESS

**Suez revelation**  
A secret document proves that Anthony Eden lied to Parliament and colluded with Israel and France to manufacture an excuse for bombing Egypt during the Suez crisis ..... Page 11

### Budget penalties

The European Commission has approved a scheme for stiff penalties against states which run high budget deficits inside monetary union ..... Page 13

### Press warning

Qian Qichen, the Chinese Foreign Minister, has warned that after next year's takeover the Hong Kong press will not be allowed to criticise the Peking leadership ..... Page 16

### Flight from Kabul

Thousands of people are fleeing the battle for control of Kabul after the ousted government warned Taliban to quit the city or face a bloodbath ..... Page 17

### Art under guard

The Vienna outlet of Christie's will be under heavy guard from next week as it prepares to auction art stolen from Austrian Jews by the Nazis ..... Page 18

### World Cup draw

Thousands of people are queuing outside the draw for the World Cup ..... Page 19

### Motor racing

Formula One drivers are to be allowed to race in Formula 3000 ..... Page 20

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### Motor racing





ur faces  
n beer

Not all sacked executives deserve a payoff  Fraud squads prepare for business  Restaurant chain rakes in the dough

## Limited liability bosses

GO INTO your boss's office and punch him or her, hard, on the nose. Go on, do it. Then see if you get a year's money or a quick ejection by a security gorilla. This is because your behaviour constitutes a sacking offence.

Now go and lose a couple of hundred million of your boss's money. Again, the sack beckons, and you may be lucky to avoid a few years inside. Don't hang around too long arguing about compensation either. But if you happen to be in charge of the department where those millions were lost, you are in a different category, it seems. Defeat in a fiercely contested takeover bid might also not be the disaster it at first seems.

Let us go back to basic principles. The sack is the sack: compensation for loss of office is quite different. The two can be simply distinguished by the concept of blame. Those II fund managers from Barclays who got the bullet earlier this week were in the wrong place at the wrong time. Their jobs disappeared, but no blame attached to them, so they were compensated with an average of a year's money each.

The five men thrown out of Morgan Grenfell Asset Management yesterday went because a subordinate dropped a few hundred million. He has already been dismissed. They received

compensation, in the form of their contracts being paid off. But blame should attach to them for two reasons.

For the first, one might borrow the legal concept of strict liability; some criminal offences are such that there is no need to prove any intent to commit them; their mere commission is enough for prosecution. Some offences at work, too, being in charge of a department where so serious an error takes place means some blame attaches to you. Ditto for the compliance officer, in charge

The second reason has to do with what the five should have known. Everyone in fund management knew that Peter Young, the man who actually dropped all those millions, was a high-flyer who appeared able to bring in amazing returns from unpromising raw material. Such a man should have been watched far more carefully than the run-of-the-mill fund manager; the blame attaches to the five because he wasn't.

There is not much to be said about the £3 million that went to former BET boss John Clark,

first because this was awarded by a High Court judge, and anyway, his lawyers are already upset about what appeared in this column on the subject yesterday. Henry Sweetbham of Wickes is having his pension paid in full, but he is handing back some earlier bonuses, so this probably constitutes a draw.

The worry is that the City, particularly in cases such as Morgan Grenfell and Barings, is blurring the distinction between loss of office for cause, that is the sack, and the just rewards for years of service terminated without fault. The high salaries enjoyed by the Morgan Grenfell five, carried with them high responsibilities, and there should be no compensation for a failure to discharge those responsibilities properly.

This is important because of the growing disquiet about high City pay, in the light of Mary Walz, the former Barings director claiming a £500,000 bonus, and those new millionaires at Goldman Sachs. We must make a distinction between high pay in return for and dependent on future performance and hush

### PENNINGTON



money for those who have already failed. If we do not, the danger is that the deserving former are vilified along with the undeserving latter.

### Predicting the next Maxwell

I WOULD not wish to make anyone unduly nervous, but Britain's fraud squads are quietly gearing up for a busy period.

Everyone knows that a new wave of corporate fraud is coming, but no one is quite sure when.

The argument runs thus. There are plenty of entrepreneurs out there who have pledged all their shares to the bank at current values against

their debts. Any short-term correction for the stock market, and the value of the shares becomes less than the value of the loans. The banks want their money back. Companies go bust. The receivers sift through the wreckage, and a fresh batch of rogues is flushed out.

Witness the last round of disasters: Polly Peck, Maxwell, the Bank of Credit and Commerce International (BCCI). Many frauds rely on circular flows of money — sums spiralling round a "black hole" of ever-increasing proportions. BCCI was the classic example: monies shuttling around between New York, London, and the Caymans. But it need not involve billions. Wallace Duncan Smith, a relatively unknown City merchant banker, succeeded in running up debts of £100 million before he was rummaged. It took the recession to expose him.

Predicting the next Maxwell is more difficult, although potential Captain Bobs are undoubtedly out there. One enduring theme is the personality involved: arrogant, supremely self-confident, and fond of luxury. There are plenty

of those in business and the City, and a recession would see some floundering. Not all of them know how to swim either.

### Piling it high on PizzaExpress price

THE genius who worked out that a flat slab of dough, a smear of tomato paste and a scattering of dried-up cheese, pepper and salami could be sold as a square meal deserves a place in catering history. From this beginning grew a monstrous regiment of pizza parlours, among them one of the stock market successes of the decade.

The share price chart of PizzaExpress is as sharp as its products are flat. A placing took place at 40p in early 1993; yesterday, investors' appetites were still sharp for another round of shares at 475p. This placing and expansion will take the group to 120 outlets, as against 250 to 300 before the market is saturated.

The share price performance has little to do with the merits of the menu or even strict financial

criteria. Investors, a quarter of them American, have been betting on two things, the track record of Luke Johnson, the whiz-kid chairman, and the belief that he will one day lose interest and sell out.

Each PizzaExpress branch is now valued by the stock market at more than £2 million apiece, extraordinarily high for leasehold properties, but then, look at some of the daft prices being paid for businesses such as Café Pelican and the Tom Cobleigh pub chain this autumn. Further expansion, once that saturation point is reached, would be either on the Continent or into another restaurant or pub brand, both of them distinctly untested markets. More likely, Mr Johnson will find a buyer well before this.

### Institutional power

NOW the dust has settled on the Refuge-Friendly merger, shareholders in the former owe a vote of thanks to the three institutions, led by Permanent, that threw a handful of grit into the works before the initial terms could be agreed. The technical issue of orphan assets was way above the heads of most investors, who would probably have voted the deal through. Instead, the right set of shareholders will at least benefit from any eventual value.

## Bigger slice for PizzaExpress

BY NOEL FUNG

### Time Warner loses \$91m in third quarter

FROM RICHARD THOMSON IN NEW YORK

TIME WARNER, the world's biggest media group, reported a \$91 million loss for the third quarter, days after it completed its merger with Turner Broadcasting Systems, the cable television company.

The loss, which compared with net losses of \$141 million last year, resulted mainly from large interest payments on massive outstanding debt. Losses for the first nine months of the year amount to \$250 million.

However, Time Warner said that its underlying operations had improved, with earnings before interest and tax rising by 32 per cent to \$964 million.

About 5.68 million new shares will be placed with investors in Britain and America at 475p a share, a 10 per cent discount to yesterday's closing price of 532½p.

The acquisition will increase PizzaExpress's company-owned restaurants to 120. Company-owned restaurants enjoy a higher profit margin in excess of 20 per cent, whereas the franchised ones yield only 4 per cent of turnover as royalty.

income to PizzaExpress. The number is still a far cry from the company's target of 250 to 300 in the UK. It plans to open 25 new company-owned restaurants each year and will expand its overseas coverage through franchising.

In 1993, the company decided to curtail the opening of new franchised restaurants in favour of company-owned ones and the latest purchase reinforces this strategy.

The chain's successful formula helped to boost its annual pre-tax profit to £10.2 million in the year to June, a 54 per cent improvement on the previous year. This is the second time since its February 1993 flotation that it has raised funds. It raised £3.5 million in September 1995 through an institutional placing.

Pennington, this page

### Wellington merger shareout

WELLINGTON Underwriting, the largest managing agency at Lloyd's of London, has confirmed details of its planned merger with Wellington Underwriting Holdings (WU Holdings), supplier of underwriting capital to Wellington syndicates (Jon Ashworth writes).

WU Holdings shareholders will receive 36.6 million new shares, about 55 per cent of the enlarged Wellington capital. They will also be entitled to deferred consideration linked to the extent to which the enlarged group exceeds earnings targets. Conditional on the offer, shareholders are expected to receive a 4p interim per Wellington share. A second interim of 27p per WU Holdings share will be paid to WU Holdings holders.



Sir Roger Hurn, left, with Keith Butler-Wheelhouse, who is to take over as chief executive next month

## Smiths favours US over Europe for defence

BY PAUL DURMAN

SIR ROGER HURN, chairman and chief executive of Smiths Industries, yesterday expressed doubts that the shake-up of the European defence and aerospace industry would produce a champion capable of challenging the leading American companies.

With a stock market value of more than £2.3 billion, Smiths is big enough to strengthen its aerospace business by taking over one of Europe's poorly performing state-owned defence companies. However, Sir Roger believes that Smiths is likely to find "more interesting and perhaps more realistic" opportunities in the US.

He said that consolidation in Europe was "fraught with

very serious territorial and political differences". He was sceptical about the prospects of a successful outcome.

Smiths, which also has businesses in medical instruments and ventilation, was reporting annual pre-tax profits of £165 million, a 19 per cent increase.

Sir Roger, who will end 15 years as chief executive next month, when he hands over to Keith Butler-Wheelhouse, said: "We had a super year. All three of our business groups improved their profits."

Earnings per share rose 19 per cent to 36.6p. A final dividend of 10.6p, to be paid on January 8, will lift the total payout to 16.2p, up 12.5 per cent.

Smiths is upbeat about

prospects. It is benefiting from a new revival in orders for new aircraft. Smiths makes several hundred thousand pounds worth of instrumentation for each of Boeing's 737s and 777s.

The group's sales grew 12 per cent to just over £1 billion. Helped by acquisitions, the industrial division, which includes Vent-Axia fans, increased profits 32 per cent to £49.7 million. Medical systems increased profits 16 per cent to £73.1 million, with margins rising to 24 per cent. The aerospace arm made £45.3 million, a 12 per cent rise.

Nick Cunningham, a BZW analyst, described the results as "outstandingly good, as

expected". The City expects Smiths to make more than £190 million this year.

Sir Roger will continue as Smiths' chairman but he insisted that Mr Butler-Wheelhouse "will be the boss and I won't be". Sir Roger is already a non-executive director of ICI and Glaxo Wellcome, but he expects Smiths to remain his principal business activity.

Sir Roger said: "Last year was not a flash in the pan, any more than any of the previous years have been. I have confidence for the future growth in sales, profits, earnings per share and dividends in the years ahead."

Tempus, page 30

### Record \$686m for Ford

FROM RICHARD THOMSON IN NEW YORK

FORD, America's second largest carmaker, nearly doubled its profits in the third quarter to a record \$686 million as buoyant US conditions offset deepening losses in Europe.

Losses on Ford UK and European operations grew from \$330 million to \$472 million, making by far the biggest contribution to the overall loss from overseas operations of \$619 million.

The company said that new product development, such as the Ka small car that goes on sale next month, and high marketing costs in Europe had been largely to blame for the loss. Most product launches were now completed and the company could now concentrate on cutting costs in its mass-making operations.

The profit result is a 92 per cent rise on the \$357 million earned by the company in the comparable period last year.

On Tuesday, General Motors, the largest carmaker, reported that profits had tripled to \$1.3 billion.

### Sales boost at WH Smith

BY KEITH RODGERS



SHARES in WH Smith climbed 19p to 474p yesterday after the company reported a 4 per cent increase in sales for the four months to September 30.

However, some analysts remained cautious about longer term prospects, with one suggesting that the recovery could take longer than expected.

Jeremy Hardie, chairman, told the annual meeting that like-for-like sales, excluding new stores, had increased 3 per cent. Weak markets affected music and video sales, but

exceptional cost of £25 million to cover the manufacturing reorganisation. The job cuts are to be by natural wastage over the next two years, after which the Coatbridge factory operations, currently employing 900 people, will be merged into the Bothwell Park site, near Glasgow.

Alexandra said it will also incur a £1 million exceptional

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STOCK MARKET



MICHAEL CLARK

# Allied Domecq action revives talk of bid

MORE than £260 million was added to the stock market value of Allied Domecq as the share price shrugged off recent weakness to end the session 25½ p higher at 482½ p.

By the close of business almost four million shares had changed hands in a market where traders will normally quote a price in 50,000 shares at a time. Once again, this has led to revived talk about a bid for the company from Seagrams, the giant north American drinks group. But much of the action in the shares appeared to be taking place on the traded options market before the expiry of the October series.

Brokers reported plenty of activity in the January 500p series where 1,350 contracts, equivalent to 1.3 million shares, were completed. It is believed much of the demand stemmed from investors rolling over their positions from the open-ended October 460p series where 141 contracts were recorded.

It may be that some City speculators are pinning their hopes on a bid from Seagrams emerging before too long. It could also be that some fund managers see better times ahead for the group. The shares have been under a cloud of late, trading well below their year's high of 550p, as the group attempts to complete its restructuring.

The rest of the equity market ran into the buffers as shares came off the boil after their recent record-breaking run. Market-makers called prices lower from the outset as they tried to square their positions before this week's options expiry. There was little genuine selling pressure, just light profit-taking, and this was reflected in the low volume of 4.49 million shares.

The FTSE 100 index was further unsettled by the latest unemployment numbers and average earnings. It finished just above its low for the day in spite of another early fall by the Dow Jones industrial average in New York. The FTSE 100 closed down 26.4 points at 4,024.4.

Tate & Lyle fell 3½ p to 483p with the group facing an investigation by US authorities into corn syrup prices. Cadbury Schweppes was another weak market, losing 2½ p to 520p on the back of this week's figures from Coca-Cola showing disappointing volume in Europe. Cadbury, at



Fitness First made an impressive debut on AIM

present, continues to bottle and distribute Coca-Cola products. Revived talk of a bid from Nestlé boosted Dalgatty 4p to 316½ p.

A positive trading statement from WH Smith gave the shares a much-needed boost with a rise of 19p to 474½ p. The group has been busily restructuring its business and reports that its performance so

far is up 4 per cent in the first four months of the year to September.

Brokers gave a warm reception to full-year figures from Smiths Industries, the aerospace and medical products group, after weighing in with pre-tax profits up from £138 million to £170.4 million. The price rose 12p to 303½ p.

Fitness First, the health

Tesco climbed 5p to 326½ p as NatWest Securities took a more optimistic view of prospects and upgraded its recommendation from a "hold" to "add". It also increased its pre-tax profit forecast for the current year by £10 million to £755 million and for 1997 by £30 million to £850 million.

year figures in line with expectations and news of continuing expansion plans at DFS Furniture failed to cut much ice with the City, leaving the price 22p lower on the day at 514½ p. The price was undermined by the news that Sir Graham Kirkham's children are thinking of selling a significant proportion of their 22 per cent stake in the company.

Fitness First, the health

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**THE  
TIMES**  
**CITY  
DIARY**

**Knives out for  
the cutlery**

NICE to know the nation's finances are in such safe and honest hands. Hot off the press comes the first issue of the Treasury's Accommodation and Security Team bulletin with the eye-catching headline "cutlery and crockery amnesty extended". It continues: "The restaurant is again running very low on cutlery and crockery. If you see unattended coffee flasks, plates, cups and saucers, etc anywhere in the building, please call the restaurant and they will collect it — no questions asked!" Other gems: "Graffiti ... in the workplace is unacceptable." More gems anon.

**Touchlined**

WE HEAR that Stephen Hinchliffe, the former Façade boss, is taking a back seat at Sheffield United Football Club. Having, at one point, been vice-chairman, Hinchliffe slipped back to being a mere director earlier this year and has now resigned from the board. Watch closely to see what happens to his 15 per cent stake in the club, which is frozen by the Mareva injunction taken out by Price Waterhouse. Administrators of Hinchliffe's collapsed footwear empire.

THE "silver ferret" is on the move. Sean Lippell, head of corporate law at Leeds-based solicitors Pinsent Curtis was given the title for his prematurely grey hair and nose for a deal. Now he is sniffing elsewhere, as he is to join lawyers Garrett & Co. the lawyers owned by Arthur Andersen.



**Red Adair**

REGULATIONS from Brussels must have become so complex that even the Europhile CBI is perplexed by them. Adair Turner, the Director-General, was telling an Anglo-German business conference yesterday about the sexual harassment directive under the Social Chapter being at odds with the principle of subsidiarity. He opened with: "Sexual harassment is a very good thing." When this was greeted with laughter, he blushed and tried to explain he was talking about the directive.

**Mini memories**

MOTORING enthusiasts will revive memories of *The Italian Job* when they take part in this year's Lord Mayor's Show on November 9. No fewer than 35 Mini Cooper cars — as featured in the 1960s bank heist film starring Michael Caine — will motor through the City when the £3 million parade gets under way.

**Spotted surfers**

SO YOU thought the typical Internet surfer was a spotty youth with a predilection for anoraks and *Baywatch*? Wrong. A new survey claims the average surfer earns more than £25,000 a year. More than one-quarter of British consumers say they would buy motor insurance over the net and 75 per cent of the business already transacted is by women. The survey, by Market Assessment Publications, called Financial Services Organisations, claims the high street will be the biggest losers in the Internet revolution.

**H**ardly anything in business lasts forever, except for principles that remain pristine through lack of use. So there have to be rules that put some realistic value on not-so-new assets to help managers, bankers and investors assess the state of companies whose operations they cannot know well at first hand.

Accounting rules are not immune from wear. They too have a limited life. High inflation makes nonsense of measures of profit or worth. New finance or trading techniques may not be covered. Smart operators, guided by fund managers and abetted by compliant auditors, prise open loopholes and exploit weaknesses. Soon the rules stop being passive measures. They start distorting behaviour over anything from pensions to takeovers, hinder efficiency and hold back economic progress.

Experience suggests that rules should be patched up over 15 to 20 years, then be written off and replaced. The Accounting Standards Board, set up to make rules that command general support, is about to replace its own first Financial Reporting Standard after four years. By contrast, accounting rules developed by the European Commission are set in concrete through EU directives and built into the foundations via national company law. These seemingly immutable laws increasingly stymie reform at home, and growth of international accounting standards.

Three years ago, Sir David Tweedie, the board's chairman, brought out a paper that aimed to deal with "nonsense" property

values left by the price spiral and subsequent slump. It was shelved. So were many valuations. On the unhappy instrument that rises are permanent but falls temporary, many top 100 companies still carry properties in their books at valuations made five or more years ago, near the height of the boom. Those who played fair and paid the price want Sir David to show their replacement rival a yellow card.

Today, the 1993 ideas resurface as another discussion paper: *Measurement of Tangible Fixed Assets*. It allows companies to carry assets at cost less accumulated annual depreciation, or to revalue them at today's trade prices, which allow for land values and market demand as well as wear and tear. If they are revalued, all assets in one class — such as offices or hotels — should be carried in the balance sheet at up-to-date market prices, adjusted systematically each year between full independent valuations at least every five years.

As inflation abates and city centres lose their dominance, more properties will depreciate in value, whichever route is chosen. The trouble is that an EU Company Law Directive makes accounting depreciation



**GRAHAM  
SEARJEANT**

compulsory, echoing cautious German traditions. The directive stems from proposals made more than 25 years ago. But instead of being phased out, they are enshrined in the Companies Act 1985.

Those who follow accounting reforms will find this familiar. Often, the best solutions are ruled out because they are illegal and it would take decades to change EU-inspired law. In extreme cases, standard setters invoke the "true and fair override" to ignore a law that leads to nonsense. To placate City users of accounts,

the board would make properties held as investments such an exception. They must by law be regularly valued.

The rest would have to write down values annually and charge depreciation against profits — even if they no longer relate to market prices. If a property's market value stays the same, the company still has to carry an annual charge against profits. Legally, an equal upward revaluation cannot be offset against this charge. It counts as an unrealised gain, somewhere else in the accounts. If a property is revalued upwards, the charge rises and profits fall.

Trade will be distorted. Rent your property from an investor instead of owning it creates more accounting profit, because you would have to charge depreciation but the investor doesn't. If EU-inspired laws stymie sensible reforms, it might be better to devote the effort to changing the way the EU legislates.

This is not an argument about whether laws should be made at EU or national level, but about how to set common regulations for a single market — not who but how. What holds for accounting standards is as likely to make sense for

rules on takeovers, pension investment, dairy hygiene, potato varieties, sewage effluent, electrical fittings or fishing.

Unlike the City Takeover Panel, Sir David saw that the best domestic efforts will founder unless standards mesh with those devised by the voluntary International Accounting Standards Committee, or which are forced on top companies by the combined weight of international stock exchanges and investors. Such rules are flexible and can cope with change. But they cannot be left to private cartels.

Most regulation should be contracted out. The Commission should aim for simple directives that traders must follow standards set by a body it nominates and whose members and outpourings it has a right to approve. The EU's Financial Reporting Council is a good model for rules that need cover only the EU. The Anglo-Saxon dominated IASC offers a better but harder example for issues where EU boundaries count for little. The Commission has rightly rejected an EU Accounting Standards Board in favour of observer status at the IASC. It might be offered more.

Would that officials were so enlightened on internal market matters. Most Brussels-bashing stems from its focus on detailed legislation and its consequent failure to manage Union affairs efficiently. Yet more central directives are on the way, on anything from takeovers to lead pipes to meet the perceived needs of the 1990s. They will become the bureaucratic fossils that trip us up in the next century.

**Philip Bassett on radical US proposals to regulate boardrooms**

## Curtains for corporate back-scratching



Sir Ronald Hampel: heads UK corporate governance inquiry

Frank Carlucci: former US Cabinet member who sits on 14 boards

Sir Richard Greenbury: took action to defuse row over "fat-cat" pay

was attending a conference on corporate governance at the Stetson University College of Law. "We have seen a sharp increase in the number of companies paying their directors in stock."

In the 1950s and 1960s, payment in stock in the US formed only 10 per cent of chief executive officers' (CEOs) pay packages. By the 1980s it was 25 per cent; it is now up to 41 per cent. During 1990, CEOs' long-term incentive payments — frowned on by Greenbury — have fallen by 15 per cent, while stock option grants are up 13 per cent in a year.

With the Dow hitting 6,000 this week for the first time, payments in stock are clearly attractive. Steven Hall, managing director of Pearl Meyer, the New York-based pay specialists, says: "Stock options are the drug of choice in executive compensation in corporate America this year." Next month, the NACD will launch a new set of recommendations, which it believes will be even more far-reaching — and which could carry implications for Britain, too. "The general recommendations will have a profound impact on board behaviour," says Charles Elson, a law professor at Stetson and a member of the NACD

commission that drew up the report. "It will compel compliance."

The aim of the report on director professionalism from the commission, which includes US business leaders from General Motors, Eastman Kodak, 3M, Texaco and Bethlehem Steel, as well as academics from Harvard and elsewhere, pension fund managers and key shareholder activists, is to increase the effectiveness of company directors, who, the NACD feels, should have redirected managers in companies like IBM, GM and American Express before they hit trouble.

From a largely right-wing perspective, the commission will put

forward proposals on November 12 that are far more radical in many ways than some left-wingers in Britain now advocate to reform companies. They include:

■ **Board numbers.** The most far-reaching proposal will be precise limits on the number of boards directors can sit on. US shareholder activists, now including the Teamsters, the largest trade union, have identified some business leaders serving on a large number of boards, such as Frank Carlucci of Bell Atlantic and General Dynamics, who sits on 14, and Vernon Jordan of Dell Computer and PepsiCo, who sits on 11.

■ **Interlocking directorships.** A key feature of the boardroom pay row in Britain that led to Greenbury's pay was the emergence of a web of directorships where board members sat on each other's boards.

Greenbury shied away from confronting this mutual corporate back-scratching, but the NACD report will propose that the practice be ended, and directors appointed on the basis of fitting what companies' want, and usually after an executive search by headhunters, rather than the old boys' network.

■ **Skills.** The NACD will propose minimum standards for company directors — the association accepts that many board members currently do not meet these standards. As

well as standards on wider issues such as integrity, leadership qualities and others, some proposals will be pretty basic — including the demonstrable ability to read a company balance sheet.

■ **Corporate heads.** Although the US is ahead of Britain in some respects, in others it is not. Cadbury recommended the splitting of the roles of chairman and chief executive — a proposal now widely followed in Britain. In the US, the NACD commission could not reach a consensus so it will say merely that, while the idea has advantages, individual company circumstances will dictate practice.

Parallels between Britain and the US are not exact, from the structure of equity ownership onwards, as the graphic shows. Britain has a strong imbalance in terms of institutional share ownership, compared to Japan, say, where ownership is generally balanced, or the US, where individual share ownership is strongest.

The imbalance extends to executive pay. Research by Monks Partnership, the UK pay specialists, shows that chief executives' total earnings in the UK rose by 5 per cent in 1994, compared with 12 per cent in the US. New US figures suggest that pay levels for CEOs in the *Fortune* Top 100 companies will average \$4.8 million (£2.7 million) this year.

**H**owever, US business leaders react with horror to the idea of going before a Congressional committee to disclose salary levels and working patterns, as business leaders did in Britain last year before a House of Commons select committee. Shareholder activism is much more advanced in the US than in Britain, though disruptions to the annual meetings of British Gas — which featured a pig called Cedric, brought along by the GMB general union — and Hanson this year, show how much closer to US levels of activism Britain is moving.

James Heard, president of Institutional Shareholder Services, the US's leading corporate governance advisory firm, believes the New York Stock Exchange will introduce governance requirements for its company listings within the next five years. Later this month his firm will be briefing its UK client companies in London on how the US and UK overlap on corporate governance.

America, despite being hit hard by downsizing and continuing rows over executive pay, offers some glimpses of the way the argument over what companies do and how they do it may go in the UK.

The Hampel inquiry may suggest a new, post-election way forward, and what is happening in the US may help in offering some new signposts, not all of which may be to the liking of British companies and their directors.

## Can funds win back investors' trust?

**Robert Miller on the damage done to the industry by the Morgan Grenfell affair**

**N**o one can draw comfort from the damage that Morgan Grenfell has wreaked on the good name of the unit trust industry. But it is a particular blow to the Government and the Labour Party.

While both sides of the political spectrum will welcome yesterday's clear-out of senior Morgan Grenfell executives as a sign that the messy business will not go away, they will be aware that many who may have been thinking about investing in unit trusts will be put off from making what might be a wise decision.

The Conservatives and Labour are committed to the view that we will all have to make more private provision for long-term retirement and healthcare. It follows, therefore, that the £128 billion unit trust industry will be in the forefront of such a move.

Unit trusts offer a relatively low-cost entry point into equity and bond markets, spreading the risk across dozens, if not hundreds, of holdings. Philip Warland, Director-General of

headline-grabbing scandals tend to obscure many of the good results achieved in recent years.

**N**evertheless, and this is perhaps a main feature of the Morgan Grenfell business, short-termism has been allowed to rule to the ultimate detriment of investors and the industry alike. Of course, investors should keep a weather-eye on long-term core holdings, but selling a trust on the back of a one-year performance in isolation rather than, say, three to five or even seven years is a disservice and one of which many unit trust houses are guilty.

M&G, the UK's oldest unit trust group, founded in 1931, is one that has not been enjoying its customary sparkling performance record, and outsiders

have been drafted in to beef up the investment team. But Michael McLintock, M&G's managing director-elect, says the group will not bow to short-term pressures for instant remedial action. He adds: "We have been going through a sticky patch, but we are always asking ourselves if we are doing the right thing and taking the correct approach for the longer term. A lot of products are short-term flavours of the month and if we were part of a big operation there would now be pressure on us to produce just such a short-term performance solution. But we are an independent house with a reputation for integrity, fair dealing and good long-term performance."

Unit trusts and investment trusts, perform a particularly useful service for investors. Their immediate task is to reassure millions of investors that their money is being looked after responsibly. People accept that stock markets rise and fall. What they will not tolerate is bad or incompetent management.

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Ann Hansford and Roger Hussey on summary financial statements

THE TIMES THURSDAY OCTOBER 17 1996

# What's the point in being brief?

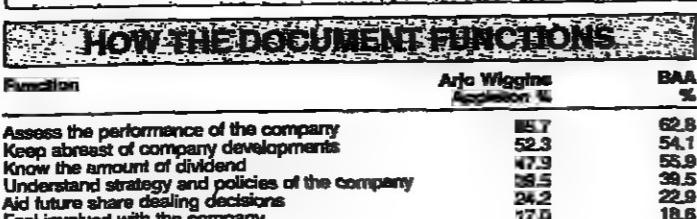
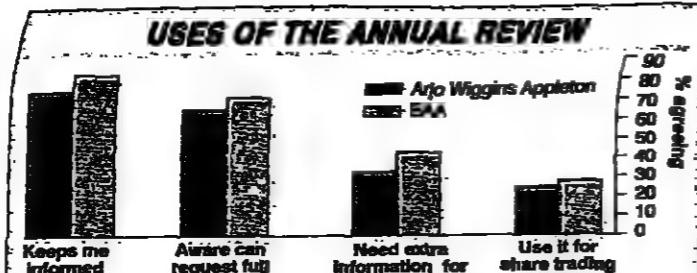
**WHEN** summary financial statements were introduced in 1990 as an alternative to a company's full report and accounts, the Department of Trade and Industry was clear on the reasons.

Essentially, the document is intended to improve shareholder communication and cut company costs. Now that there have been relaxations in the regulations, making it easier for companies to issue summary financial statements, it seems appropriate to look at the views of shareholders.

Arjo Wiggins Appleton and BAA supported our research. Although both included the summary financial statement in a larger document — the "annual review" — Arjo Wiggins Appleton's document was 44 pages and that of BAA 12 pages.

The table gives shareholders' responses to a question on what they considered to be the functions of the documents. In spite of the disparity in the size of the two publications, the responses were similar. The main function of the annual review is considered to be to assess the performance of the company. This response, together with the view that the annual review is designed to keep the shareholders abreast of company developments, suggests that voluntary disclosures are required in addition to the summary financial statements.

A further question we asked on



readership of different items supports the importance of narrative. With both documents, the three most thoroughly read items were the chairman's statement, the chief executive's review and directors' emoluments. It is interesting that more than 20 per cent of respondents considered that the function of the document was to aid share-dealing decisions in spite of the fact that both annual reviews carried the statutory

warning that the summary financial statement should not be used for this purpose. The shareholders were also asked a cross-check question that provided further data. The chart shows the percentage of those who answered "strongly agree" and "agree". These categories have been aggregated for comparison.

Shareholders of the two companies ranked the four choices in the same order, although the percentages show



Hussey: shareholders questioned

proportion of both groups of shareholders claim to use the annual review for share-trading purposes.

One explanation is provided by evidence from interviews, which suggests that less financially sophisticated users prefer a shorter document from which they can extract the information more easily, rather than a more comprehensive but more complex document.

As financial reporting regulations become even more complicated and the amount of required disclosures more extensive, the summary financial statement as part of an annual review becomes an increasingly attractive source of information for many private shareholders.

Many will regard the document as discharging a stewardship function, a way of quickly gaining information on the company. Although legislators did not intend summary financial statements to be used for decision-making, some will regard the document at least as one source of information for share trading. There are advantages in being brief and the desire to increase disclosures to prevent the misleading of shareholders should not overwhelm the need to illuminate them.

*Shareholders' views of the annual review is available from Haydn Everitt, Deloitte and Touche, 071-505 4463. The authors are at Bristol Business School*



ROBERT BRUCE

## Foundation to goad the profession

In medieval times God was thought to be the final arbiter. These days a committee will do. But the problem, as the Government has found with post-Nolan allegations of sleaze, is which group of which people will be accepted as ultimate judges of other people's behaviour. In public and professional life in recent years there has been a constant leapfrogging upwards in desperate attempts to create a tribunal, committee or working party which has produced the report. The system

will come into force in 1998 and take regulation and discipline as its primary focus. But it is hoped that it will emulate the US model, the Public Oversight Board, set up 20 years ago. In the words of Swinson, "after five years it will talk about anything it wants". Given enough freedom it should simply expand its role. Experience in the US, says the report, "suggests that the Review Board will act as a goad to the accountancy bodies. They, it is expected, will seek to avoid public criticism by the board by taking, where appropriate, anticipatory remedial action."

This will be a two-way process. The board will expect the profession to answer when criticised. "It would not," says the report, "be the purpose of the new body to speak for the public. Rather, it should be the new body's purpose to express its independent view of what is needed to preserve and enhance the reputation of the profession for serving the public interest to act in this sense as a trustee of the profession's name and reputation... it must be able not only to report on the profession, but also to require the profession to submit reports to it."

If the scheme is not nobbled at birth by the more secretive members of the profession, and there is no obvious way they could do that, it should become a truly independent arbiter. It will not quite provide a parting of the clouds and the hurling of thunderbolts, but something close.

It will be a tough task. "It is the independence of comment upon the professional bodies' performance which offers the prospect of a dynamic system which could also be stable," the report says. "This is the principal reason for the creation of the Review Board." Initially it will cover systems of regulation and discipline, but as it develops, and if it feels the need to flex its muscles, it is expected that its remit

### ANY OTHER BUSINESS

#### Full exposure at Ernst & Young

KPMG has been making much of the survey it commissioned that shows a large majority of finance directors think accountancy firms, as KPMG alone has already done, should publish their accounts. KPMG began a poster campaign earlier this week with the theme that its books are open and so are its relationships with clients. The results can already be described as startling. No sooner had a poster appeared alongside offices of its arch-rival, Ernst & Young, than E&Y announced that it too was going to publish full figures.

#### Spirited stuff

SIR DAVID TWEEDE, the iconoclastic and humorous head of the Accounting Standards Board, is trying to get up the accounting nose of the American standard-setters again. Speaking at a seminar organised by the recruitment consultant, Hewitson Walker, he told of a spat with the chief accountant of the US Securities and Exchange Commission.

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MED

## DMGT expands radio arm in Australia

FROM RACHEL BRIDGE  
IN SYDNEY

**THE** Daily Mail and General Trust stepped up its expansion into the Australian radio industry yesterday with the acquisition of a further two radio stations for A\$9 million (£4.5 million).

The company, known locally as DMG Radio Australia, now has a string of 14 regional radio stations in three states, which will expand to 18 in the next few months as new stations come on air. It also owns one metropolitan station in Adelaide.

However, Paul Thompson, chief executive, admitted that the group is frustrated by the Australian Government's lack of progress in auctioning off new metropolitan FM licences which had been planned for early next year.

Analysts say too that a sharp rise in the price of existing metropolitan radio stations has forced DMG Radio to rethink its original strategy of buying mainly in Australia's cities and made it look at regional stations.

Mr Thompson said: "We remain committed to future growth through the acquisition of existing radio stations and — through new licences — the creation of new commercial radio stations."

"While the current delay in the issuing of new metropolitan FM licences is frustrating, it is allowing DMG to rapidly build the infrastructure required for the development and management of a significant network of radio stations in major and regional markets."

The two stations acquired yesterday, 2AY AM and B104.9 in Albury, New South Wales give DMG Radio a dominant presence in central and south-western New South Wales.

The Australian radio industry is dominated by two players, Austereo and Australian Radio Network and takes a 9 per cent share of total advertising revenue. Unlike UK licensing regulations, Australia does not require a radio station to specify its programming format before a licence is awarded, allowing it to alter it to suit demand. The Daily Mail and General Trust already owns more than 30 radio stations in the UK and Scandinavia.



Geoffrey Woods, chief executive of Bridport-Gundry, its aviation acquisitions include Militair, which supplies spares for the Harrier jet shown

## Post Office seeks power to mount takeover bids

BY CHRISTINE BUCKLEY, INDUSTRIAL CORRESPONDENT

RICHARD Close, finance director, told the Commons Trade and Industry Select Committee inquiry into the Post Office that the organisation wanted the same commercial freedom enjoyed by other state-run postal services.

He said that the UK should be able to operate in the same fashion as the Dutch Post Office, which recently bid for TNT, the international parcel carrier. He said that TNT competed with Parcelforce, part of the Royal Mail.

Sir Michael Heron, Post

Office chairman, warned MPs that the organisation was at a crossroads from which it could move to be a world-beating post office or a "ghost office".

He said the Dutch bid for TNT, which has said it intends to set up a rival mail delivery service, was "precisely the sort of competition we have warned about and again underlines the Post Office's urgent and essential need for commercial freedom".

Sir Michael also called for the Government to ease the

cash demands — the external financing limits — it makes on the Post Office. The Post Office must pay the Government £925 million over the next three years.

The committee heard from all sides in the postal service in its one-day inquiry, including the unions and customers groups. The Communication Workers' Union is currently balloting members on a pay and conditions package amid a long-running dispute with the Post Office.

The one-day strike implemented by the union over the summer resulted in a one-month suspension of the Post Office's monopoly of post costing less than £1. If further action is taken the Government has said it will suspend the monopoly for three months. The result of the ballot is expected at the end of November.

The three for four rights issue at 130p per share, raising £9.1 million, will cover the cash and loan notes portion of the acquisitions, while the rest will be financed through the issue of shares.

Aviation and defence contributed more than 50 per cent of the group's profits in the year to July 31. Pre-tax profits increased 9 per cent to £1.45 million, on turnover up 7 per cent at £30.3 million.

Graham MacPhee, the finance director, said the acquisitions would increase earnings per share by up to 20 per cent. The group is to dispose of its non-core sport and leisure division.

The proposed final dividend will be 2.46p, making a total of 4.04p, up 12 per cent.

## Bridport's aviation expansion

BY NOEL FUNG

BRIDPORT-GUNDRY, the specialist textiles and aviation products group, has raised £9.1 million through a rights issue to fund three acquisitions that will double its market capitalisation from £15 million to £30 million.

The acquisitions, costing £11.95 million, are Military Aviation, an aircraft spares distributor; Avery, a passenger-cabin textile designer and manufacturer; and Safetywear, an aviation clothing distributor. They will need to be approved at a general meeting on November 8.

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## BUSINESS ROUNDUP

### Compaq Computer boosts profits 43%

COMPAQ Computer Corp lifted its profits by 43 per cent in the third quarter as it increased sales of personal computers and accessories and streamlined operations. Compaq, the world's largest supplier of personal computers, said that net income for the three months to September 30 rose to \$350 million, from \$245 million. Earnings per share were \$1.26, up from 99 cents previously. The per-share results were well above Wall Street estimates of \$1.07, but the shares fell by \$1.875, to \$73.25, in early trading in New York.

Revenue rose by 25 per cent, to \$4.5 billion, from \$3.6 billion. Compaq said that its accessories business, which includes monitors, keyboards, and CD changers, grew significantly in the third quarter and remained one of its most profitable segments. For the first nine months of the year, net income grew by 20 per cent, to \$881 million, from \$707 million. Revenue rose to \$12.7 billion, from \$10.1 billion. Worldwide sales were \$14.8 billion last year, the last full year.

### Portfolio value falls

TOWN CENTRE SECURITIES, the property investment company, reported a 2 per cent fall in the total value of its portfolio to £253 million yesterday. This was in spite of the addition of shopping centres in Salisbury and Leigh. The average yield of new purchases was in excess of 9 per cent. Pre-tax profits were £9.88 million (£9.3 million) in the year to June 30. Earnings eased to 9.2p a share (6.3p) as a result of a higher tax charge. The total dividend is 3.5p a share (3.25p), with a 2.45p final.

### Ashbourne buys homes

ASHBOURNE, one of the UK's largest private nursing home groups, has acquired three purpose-built nursing homes for a total of £5.9 million. The homes, with a total of 134 beds, are in Bolton, Cambridge and Upminster. Ashbourne will now operate 3,325 beds in 40 homes. Homes with a total of 591 beds are currently under construction and due for completion within the next 12 months. Tony Hamilton, chief executive, said that the company would continue to seek suitable acquisitions.

### Wescol exports flourish

WESCOL Group, the structural steel fabricator, said orders since the year-end have been excellent, with export orders exceeding the total for the previous year. The company has secured three contracts in Singapore worth more than £5 million. In the year to July 31, Wescol lifted pre-tax profits to £2.7 million, from £800,000, on turnover that improved to £28.7 million (£24.3 million). Earnings were 2.6p a share (2p). A final dividend of 0.7p a share lifts the total to 1p (0.75p).

### Adwest in Nissan deal

ADWEST, the engineering company, has secured a contract worth £7.5 million annually to supply pedal boxes, gearshifts and handbrakes for Nissan's new Primera. The car is the first Nissan model designed specifically for European markets and is set to become its best-selling model in Europe. Adwest Rearsby, a subsidiary, also supplies components for the Nissan Micra. Nissan has 204 suppliers in Europe, spending about £705 million each year on components.

### Blockleys passes payout

BLOCKLEYS, maker of brick and clay paviours, is passing payment of an interim dividend (0.01p last time). In the six months to June 30, the company cut pre-tax losses to £54,000, from £21,000, but it says that trading conditions remain harsh, with the construction industry expecting UK brick sales to be lower in 1995. Company turnover fell to £4.4 million, from £5.28 million, in what Brian Taylor, chairman, called "the worst half-year recorded in the brick industry".

### La Senza expanding

LA SENZA, the specialist lingerie and sleepwear retailer, plans to open a further seven shops, including its first outlets in central London, within the next month. A 15-year lease was signed last week for a shop in Oxford Street, giving the company a presence in the West End of London. La Senza raised £19.35 million when its shares were floated on the Alternative Investment Market in May, to fund the opening of 150 shops nationwide over five years.

## Accounting change hits Burn Stewart Distillers

BY KEITH RODGERS

PRE-TAX profits at Burn Stewart Distillers, the Scotch whisky producer, dived in the year to June 30, after its auditor insisted on a change in accounting practices.

The company, which said its underlying business was improving, had postponed the results for two weeks as it applied accounting standard FRS 5. As a result, forecast pre-tax profits of about £4 million fell to £1 million.

Compared with £3.96 million. The change centred on its dealings with a wholesale customer, which also provides consultancy services to Burn

Stewart. Price Waterhouse, its auditor, judged that the customer was effectively not independent and that FRS 5 applied.

Burn Stewart was forced to make provisions and defer profit until the current year, when the consultancy agreement ends.

It is proposing to pay a further dividend of 1.7p per share in November — marking 3.4p for the year, compared with 5p — but expects to make a larger interim or full-year dividend in the current year. Earnings per share fell from 4.65p to 0.94p, on turnover up from £50.4 million.

The share price, already at an all-time low, fell 11.5p to 70p at the start of trading yesterday, before recovering slightly.

The deal was announced in

## United Assurance given shareholder approval

BY MARIANNE CURPHEY

TRADING will begin today in United Assurance, a new £1.4 billion insurance company formed from the merger of Refuge Assurance and United Friendly.

The merger was finally approved yesterday by both sets of shareholders after two months of wrangling. The deal had faced opposition from a number of institutional shareholders, which argued that Refuge had been undervalued by £450 million and the potential value of its surplus "orphan" assets in the life fund had been ignored.

The deal was announced in

August and Refuge eventually bowed to shareholder pressure and created a sweetener in the form of a new security that guaranteed its shareholders a slice of any future benefits.

At the extraordinary meeting in Wilmot, Cheshire, Refuge shareholders approved both the issue of new security and the terms of the merger. United Friendly shareholders also approved the terms by post.

The last obstacle to the merger was effectively removed when Perpetual, the leading fund manager, which holds a 7 per cent stake in

Refuge and which had voiced criticism of the merger, gave the deal its blessing last week.

The Prudential, which holds 6 per cent of Refuge, and Britannia, Refuge's biggest institutional shareholder with a stake of 10 per cent, had both expressed reservations about the deal. However, after the creation of the sweetener they accepted the terms at the end of September. Shares in both companies rose on news of the approach: United Friendly by 4.2p to 88.5p and Refuge by 4.2p to 44.2p.

Pennington, page 29

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## 'Feel-good' factor back at Pru

BY MARIANNE CURPHEY

NEW BUSINESS figures published yesterday by the Prudential, the UK pensions group, show the long-awaited "feel-good" factor has returned to the savings market.

The greatest shift in sales has been toward single premium products. Worldwide single contribution sales for life, pension and investment products were up by 52 per cent in the nine months to September 30, and UK single sales rose by 48 per cent. If a one-off annuity sale of £500 million were included in the figures, they would total £5 billion worldwide, up by 70 per cent, and £2.75 billion in the UK, up by 80 per cent.

The Prudential's figures are seen as a benchmark within the industry, and will be encouraging to other life com-

panies. During 1995, sales fell amid consumers' fears over job security and people's reluctance to buy into the life industry after the pensions mis-selling scandal.

Tough new rules on the figures. "Sales are continuing to grow in our US and Asia operations, while, in the UK, our new marketing and distribution initiatives continue to boost sales significantly," he said.

Single contribution sales continued to benefit from the successful marketing of the Prudence Savings Account and the Prudence Bond, a with-profits investment bond, which brought in £461 million and £564 million respectively. The Prudence Bond has attracted more than £4 billion since its launch in April 1991. Regular contribution products increased by 9 per cent, to £229 million.

In Asia, annual premium sales rose by 17 per cent, to £68 million, and single premium sales more than doubled to £61 million, boosted by Singapore.



Peter Davis saw Prudential win more new business

### KINGDOM OF MOROCCO MINISTRY OF PUBLIC WORKS

#### CONCESSION OF THE NEW INTERNATIONAL TRANSSHIPMENT ATLANTIC-TANGIER PORT INTERNATIONAL OPEN TENDER ANNOUNCEMENT FOR PREQUALIFICATION OF BIDDERS

The Moroccan Ministry of Public Works is launching an international open tender for the prequalification of bidders interested in the concession of new Atlantic-Tangier port.

The new port would receive on one hand, all the traffic of the present port of Tangier not including the passengers, fishing and pleasure traffics which would remain in the present port, and on the other hand, international transhipment traffics.

The concession implies that the selected bidder (concessionnaire) take charge of carrying out the detailed and tender design engineering studies, constructing the new port and operating it for a certain period of time to be defined later. The option of conceding the operating of the present port of Tangier might be considered through the offers to be submitted by the bidders.

The tender is open to Moroccan and foreign corporate bodies, companies, shipowners, banks and financial institutions, public and private corporations, individually or associated in joint ventures, and having satisfactory technical and financial references.

The prequalification application documents may be obtained by the interested bidders from the Direction des Ports et du Domaine Public Maritime of the Ministry of Public Works starting October the 15th, 1996. The application for prequalification will be made by answering the questionnaire of the prequalification application documents. The duly filled in prequalification documents are to be sent along with a registration application, not later than December 23, 1996 at 6.00 p.m. to the following address:

DIRECTION DES PORTS ET DU DOMAINES PUBLIC MARITIME  
ROUTE D'AKRACH, HAY NAHDA II  
B.P. 5131 — Rabat-Takaddoum

Rabat-Morocco  
Phone: (212 7) 75 39 45 & (212 7) 75 57 14 —  
Fax: (212 7) 75 00 11

A briefing session will be held on October 31, 1996 at 10.00 a.m. at Marchane Palace — Tangier. Companies interested in attending this briefing session are requested to apply by October 28, 1996 at the latest.

Expected schedule:

Notification of the prequalification results to the candidates: March first, 1997.

Closing date for the selection application: July 31, 1997.

Notification of the selection results to the prequalified candidates: September 30, 1997.

Notification of the concession: March, 1998.

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## Restrictive covenant can be upheld

**Rock Refrigeration Ltd v Jones and Another**

Before Lord Justice Simon Brown, Lord Justice Murrin and Lord Justice Phillips

[Judgment October 10]

A restrictive covenant which was had been brought to an end by the disuse of the partnership which had employed him was nevertheless valid, despite a provision expressed to operate once the agreement "shall have determined for whatever reason".

Mr Justice Scott had held not for three reasons: the first of which appeared to rely on the "mutuality" approach and the second was the *General Billposting* approach.

He went to give his third reason as follows: "But the point goes further. Suppose I am wrong. Suppose the submission is right that under the construction of the contract clause 8 binds the defendant regardless of whether the agreement was enforceable what would otherwise be enforceable?"

The whole point of the *General Billposting* principle was that in cases of repudiation or breach by the employer the employee was entitled to rescind his obligation under the contract and restrictive covenants, otherwise valid against him, accordingly could not be enforced.

Once that principle was decided, it's future application necessarily postulated that such restrictive covenants upon their true construction would otherwise be enforceable against employees.

In short, Mr Justice Scott had clearly been right not wrong in the initial reasons he gave for holding the restrictive covenant unenforceable against the wronged solicitor.

Thus the essential premise for the conclusion that the covenant would constitute an unreasonable restraint of trade collapsed: a covenant which in certain circumstances was discharged could not be unenforceable under the restraint of trade doctrine merely because in the self-same circumstances would be unreasonable to enforce it.

It was that third reason which was critical for present purposes since it was that which expressly underlay the decision in *D v M*.

In *Living Design (Home Improvements) Ltd v Davison* [1994] IRLR 691 the relevant covenants were to run for six months after the termination of the employee's employment "however long that comes about and whether lawful or not". Lord Coulisfield

employers were seeking to enforce. It was worth noting that the case was decided "on broader lines than those ... as to mutual and independent covenants."

Next came *Briggs v Oates* [1994]

where the question arose whether a solicitor whose contract had been brought to an end by the disuse of the partnership which had employed him was nevertheless valid, despite a provision expressed to operate once the agreement "shall have determined for whatever reason".

Mr Justice Scott had held not for three reasons: the first of which appeared to rely on the "mutuality" approach and the second was the *General Billposting* approach.

He continued: "If [those submissions] are right I would regard the clause 8 restraint as unreasonable as between the parties. A contract under which an employee could be immediately and wrongfully dismissed but would nevertheless remain subject to an anti-competitive restraint seems to me to be grossly unreasonable. I would not be prepared to enforce the restraint in such a contract."

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In *Living Design (Home Improvements) Ltd v Davison* [1994] IRLR 691 the relevant covenants were to run for six months after the termination of the employee's employment "however long that comes about and whether lawful or not". Lord Coulisfield

regarded that as "manifestly wholly unreasonable" agreeing with Mr Justice Scott's observations which, he said, "may have been obiter but they seem to me to be clear enough."

For his Lordship's part, the law applicable to covenants and restraint of trade simply had no relevance to the present situation. The most basic premise upon which the whole restraint of trade doctrine was founded was that, for the doctrine's application, the covenant in question would otherwise operate to restrain the employee unduly. It rendered unenforceable what would otherwise be enforceable.

The whole point of the *General Billposting* principle was that in cases of repudiation or breach by the employer the employee was entitled to rescind his obligation under the contract and restrictive covenants, otherwise valid against him, accordingly could not be enforced.

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employee's acceptance of the employer's repudiation breached that is that the *General Billposting* principle remains fully unless the Plaintiff is *Photo Production Ltd v Securair Transport Ltd* [1993] AC 327 line of authority and (b) that any wrongful termination of the contract by the employer would necessarily involve a reputatory breach.

**LORD JUSTICE MORRIT**, concurring, said that the statement of Mr Justice Scott in *Briggs v Oates* had to be understood to be the rejection of the submissions of counsel put forward on a hypothesis which did not arise in that case and was, in his Lordship's view, a legal impossibility.

**LORD JUSTICE PHILLIPS**, agreeing that the appeal should be allowed, said that he did not find the route that lead to that conclusion as clear as the other members of the court.

His Lordship had concluded that the rule in *General Billposting* accorded the secured party neither with current legal principle nor with the requirements of business efficacy.

That was not a point which it was necessary to decide because it did not, in his Lordship's judgment, affect the result of the appeal.

Since 1990 the law in relation to the discharge of contractual obligations by acceptance of repudiation had developed and clarified. *Heyman v Darwins Ltd* [1992] AC 336 held that an arbitration clause remained binding after the acceptance of a repudiation and the theory that a contract was abrogated upon acceptance of a repudiation or a fundamental breach was finally laid to rest in *Photo Production Ltd v Securair Transport Ltd*.

Negative restraints agreed to apply after the termination of employment should not be equated with the primary obligations that were discharged when a contract of employment was terminated consequent upon repudiation. The consideration for such restraints was in reality not the obligations to give the appropriate notice of termination of the employee's services but the granting of employment that afforded access to confidential information and goodwill.

Such restraints were not "one of the purposes of the contract" (*Heyman v Darwins Ltd*) they were ancillary to those purposes. But for *General Billposting* his Lordship could see no principle of law which precluded the parties from validly agreeing to restraints that would subsist even if the employment was brought to an end by a legal impossibility.

It was at least arguable that, having regard to the subsequent development of that area of the law, no very restrictive covenant would be discharged upon reputatory termination of the employment.

However, it was not necessary to resolve that issue.

If, contrary to Mr Stafford's concession that the *General Billposting* principle was of universal application, the restrictive covenants would, if valid, have survived if Mr Jones had been wrongfully dismissed by Rock that feature did not render them unreasonable and consequently void as being an unlawful restraint of trade.

The remote possibility that Rock might have terminated his employment in circumstances where they repudiated their obligations did not render unreasonable covenants which purported to apply even if that contingency occurred.

Solicitors: Ashurst Morris Crisp; Eversheds, Manchester.

## Purchasers entitled to lien to secure deposits

**Chattley and Another v Farndale Holdings Inc**

Before Lord Justice Kennedy, Lord Justice Murrin and Lord Justice Frater

[Judgment October 11]

Purchasers who signed conditional contracts to buy flats which were to be constructed in the future were entitled to a lien to secure the return of their deposits when the development failed.

The defendants also submitted

that there could be no lien if the contract was for the grant of property not previously existing,

such as a new lease, for there could have been no subsisting beneficial interest capable of being vested in the purchaser even if the contract was unconditional and therefore susceptible of specific performance.

The defendants also contended that it was less arguable that, having regard to the subsequent development of that area of the law, no very restrictive covenant would be discharged upon reputatory termination of the employment.

However, it was not necessary to resolve that issue.

If, contrary to Mr Stafford's concession that the *General Billposting* principle was of universal application, the restrictive covenants would, if valid, have survived if Mr Jones had been wrongfully dismissed by Rock that feature did not render them unreasonable and consequently void as being an unlawful restraint of trade.

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the legal estate, albeit future and conditional, which the vendor had no right to refuse.

Here the vendor was contracted to use his best endeavours to obtain a satisfactory planning consent on the grant of which the contract became unconditional.

The equitable interest was one which entitled him to seek specific relief in the form of injunctions so as to protect that right notwithstanding that a claim for specific performance might have been premature.

*Rose v Watson* clearly established that the purchaser's beneficial or equitable ownership of the property arising in consequence of a contract to purchase land which was from the outset specifically enforceable was sufficient for the creation of the purchaser's lien. It did not establish that such an interest was not only sufficient but necessary, for the establishment of a lien in favour of the purchaser.

In his Lordship's judgment, the defendants did not contend that it was necessary that the contract should be specifically enforceable at the time the benefit of the lien was claimed nor when the money for which it was claimed to be security was paid, rather that until and until the contract was specifically enforceable by the purchaser the lien could not arise.

Thus the defendants accepted, subject to their other submissions, that a lien arose when the contract became unconditional but by then it would necessarily be subject to the debenture.

The vendor became insolvent. The development was sold at the instance of the banks and the plaintiffs claimed to recover their deposits from the subsequent owners of the development, ultimately the defendants, in priority to the banks and their successors in title by means of the purchaser's liens to which they claimed to be entitled.

The contract signed by the plaintiffs had provided that the agreement was conditional upon the vendor obtaining satisfactory planning consent. Planning permission was subsequently granted.

One of the issues that arose was whether the vendor was at the time of the grant of the contract was whether the contracts were a conditional until the grant of satisfactory planning consent and (b) for the grant of leases not previously in existence, the defendants had not been specifically enforceable.

Parliament therefore evidently envisaged that the circumstances of security of tenure and its effect upon the housing policy of local authorities should be matters which could be taken account of in determining whether to make an order under section 24 of the *Matrimonial Causes Act* 1973.

The judge had held that the reality was that in such a case the court and the housing authority had different but interlocking duties and functions, and the court could not but have regard to the manner in which the performance by the housing authority of its functions was likely to affect the consequences of the contract's decision.

The judge's reasons for reversing the district judge had been that the reality was that in such a case the court and the housing authority had different but interlocking duties and functions, and the court could not but have regard to the manner in which the performance by the housing authority of its functions was likely to affect the consequences of the contract's decision.

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FILM 1

The magnificent *Breaking the Waves* shows the disintegration of a Hebridean life and marriage



FILM 2

... while *Tin Cup* finds Kevin Costner as the underdog come good in a pleasing comedy about golf

THE TIMES  
ARTS



FILM 3

Powerful and uncompromising, *Nothing Personal* is set among the paramilitaries of 1975 Belfast



FILM 4

... but the preposterous *Dragonheart* rehashes a string of mock-medieval clichés

CINEMA: Geoff Brown is stunned by a Hebridean melodrama and tees off with Costner

# Caught up in human wreckage

In a fit of collective lunacy, distributors are opening 11 releases this week, which is several more than any sane critic can handle. But one film towers above them all. It looks different. It feels different. It grabs hold of the audience and sends us on an extraordinary journey of discovery. It is *Breaking the Waves*, the fifth feature of Lars von Trier, the Danish director who has previously seemed more interested in being clever than connecting with human beings. But from the first scenes where Bess, the Scottish innocent and prospective bride of an oil-rig worker, faces the frowns of her church, Trier puts people first.

The setting is a devout community in the Outer Hebrides, where the weather seems as domineering as the word of God. The visuals match the craggy landscape. The hand-held camera of Robby Müller lurches from face to face in long, sinuous takes. Aside from picture postcard shots interspersed between the film's seven numbered chapters, the images contain no throbbing colour: this is a film of dull flesh tones, of grey skies and Presbyterian black. The extreme lack of visual adornments magnifies the focus on Bess, her disapproved marriage to the worldly Jan (Stellan Skarsgård), and the extraordinary passions this provokes. Luckily, Trier's main actress, Emily Watson, never shrinks from close scrutiny: in her film debut she lays her soul bare before the camera.

In despair once Jan returns to his rig, Bess prays to God to send him home. God sends him back paralysed after an accident. Denied physical pleasures, Jan encourages his wife to have sex with strangers. The more she obeys, the more Jan is restored to health; but Jan's salvation is her own damnation, and she pays the price.

Here Trier wades into stormy waters. You don't need to be a card-carrying feminist to quake at the prospect of a simple girl doling herself up in red PVC and fishnet stockings to do her master's bidding. Scruples have to be savaged for the film to work its spell; and some may find this impossible. Those who succeed are rewarded with a melodrama of astonishing power; a film that holds you, sometimes painfully, in its grip for every one of 158 minutes, evoking the powers of belief, love and duty with the starkness of the best Scandinavian cinema. The script, incidentally, is published next week by Faber and Faber, price £9.99.

After the rigours of *Breaking the Waves*, how about a game of golf? The man behind the golf club is Kevin Costner, though being a reckless Texan he also hits the ball with a rake, spade, shovel and baseball bat. *Tin Cup* finds Kevin Costner as the underdog come good in a pleasing comedy about golf



Getting the engaged signal: Emily Watson makes her film debut as Scottish innocent Bess heading for marriage and damnation, in Lars von Trier's *Breaking the Waves*

than baseball (*Bull Durham*) or basketball (*White Men Can't Jump*), but he still finds room for the usual carnival of hustlers, low-lifes and preening professionals about to be savaged by underdogs.

The underdog is Costner's role, and he fills it with a relaxed assurance that is a pleasure to watch, especially after his cardboard turn as an Ancient Mariner in *Waterworld*. The romance with René Russo's city psychiatrist seems dragged in to widen the film's audience and spin out the plot, but the good-natured playing gets its own compensations.

For almost the last hour we follow the progress of the US Open, as Costner snaps at the heels of Don Johnson, the pro who just happens to be Russo's boyfriend. Many pro golfers appear as themselves. But the putting greens cannot compete for authentic atmosphere with the scenes capturing Costner's town of Salome, home to dust, armadillos, the Twenty Winks Motel, the Golden Tassel, and indolent men on a coffee-shop porch. As a comedy *Tin Cup* rarely becomes upmarket, but it is never less than pleasant.

The last film by Thaddeus O'Sullivan, a gifted cameraman turned promising director, was a dour rural drama swamped with rain and kept called *December Bride*. Now-

**Breaking the Waves**  
Lumière, 18, 158 mins  
*Stunning melodrama* from Lars von Trier

**Tin Cup**  
Warner West End, 15, 135 mins  
*Kevin Costner plays golf*

**Nothing Personal**  
Plaza, 15, 85 mins  
*Searing Belfast drama*

**Boston Kickout**  
Warner West End, 18, 105 mins  
*Generation X hits Stevenage*

ing *Personal* far superior, could not be more different. It thrusts us into the streets of Belfast in 1975, where Catholics and Loyalists stage running battles, bullets rip kneecaps or worse, and fires erupt into the night sky.

In place of characters weighed down with poesy, *Nothing Personal* gives us Ian Hart's Ginger, a Loyalist paramilitary who executes atrocities, then complains about the victim's blood spattering onto his blue suit. He is like a wild animal, and much of the drama in this powerful film stems from the Loyalists' attempt to cage him.

Poignancy comes from other threads in the script derived

**Dragonheart**  
Empire, PG, 103 mins  
*Gobbledygook with a talking dragon*

**The Wind in the Willows**  
Warner West End, PG, 88 mins  
*Terry Jones's hit-and-miss adaptation takes some liberties*

**Alaska**  
Warner West End, PG, 109 mins  
*Family adventure with an antique feel*

copters whirling overhead. The actors play their part too. Michael Gambon redeems some recent bad performances as the Loyalist leader trying to go softly softly; Ian Hart and James Frain chill the bones as trigger-happy fanatics. This is an uncompromising film, and it concentrates the mind.

Despite the title, Boston Kickout takes place in Stevenage, and the local council wishes it did not. For time has moved on since the Hertfordshire new towns were blantly worshipped by newsreel cameras as the suburban dream come true. The Stevenage of Paul Hill's promising debut feature, shot in 1994, is a concrete wasteland where teenagers idle and escape the blank future through drugs, drink, or a rampage through neighbours' gardens.

The script attempts to squeeze in too much drama as it follows the fortunes of four school leavers. One minute our hero Phil (John Simm) is urinating over bread at his bakery job; the next, we are faced with a parent's slashed wrists, a juvenile mental breakdown, or a dalliance with Phil's Irish cousin (Eamonn McCourt).

A few snips with the editorial scisscors would help to highlight the film's best qualities.

Every week, young film fans discuss some of the latest releases...

**TIN CUP**

Susan Wallace, 19: Yes, they have whiter-than-golfball-white teeth. Yes, her legs are longer than the entire course. Yes, this does just about sum up the entire plot. A film about risks which takes none, but some witty scenes early on.

Elizabeth Kerr, 19: You don't have to be a golfer to enjoy this film. Kevin Costner plays a believable character with the right balance of humour.

Steve Victory, 22: Very average Costner flick – action and adventure is sparse. Definitely a rainy day film.

Tassos Stevens, 20: This is a typical American movie: the triumph of heart over head and victory for the little guy. Surprisingly entertaining.

**THE WIND IN THE WILLOWS**

Susan: Brilliant casting. You wouldn't find a rattier Rat or a

molier Mole in any hedgerow.

With dungeons, mincing machines and dark forests, you have all the ingredients of a good horror film. Some of those weasels might just be ready for a Tarantino role.

Elizabeth: The cast was amazing and the acting superb. A children's classic well worth seeing.

Steve: The humour is sharp and absurd, the tone suitably jolly; what we've come to expect from the Python crew.

Tassos: Terry Jones here has a gamut of ex-Pythons and big comedy Brits as ingredients but throws in as many (poor) special effects as he can afford, risible songs, and ends up with an inconsistent mush.

ties: a jaunty vein of black comedy, fresh performances, and an urge to reflect how young people in Britain actually live.

After 100 minutes in Stevenage, how about an injection of fantasy? The preposterous *Dragonheart*, directed by Rob Cohen, aims for an overdose, ransacking so many myths and movies to build its story about a medieval knight (Dennis Quaid) teaming up with a noble dragon to free the country from tyranny.

If the plot prompts an enormous yawn, the special-effects dragon is worth a look, especially as he speaks with Sean Connery's voice. Slovaka provided the picturesque locations; best not to inquire what country the film is supposed to be set in.

At least in *The Wind in the Willows* we know where we are: England, land of green

fields, steam trains and animals in pullovers. This is not quite Kenneth Graham's book. Writer, director and Toad impersonator Terry Jones haul heavy Pythonesque humour into play; while the dog-food factory finale bores through overkill. Jones's cohorts include Eric Idle (Rat), Steve Coogan (Mole) and Antony Sher (Chief Weasel), but the effect they make, like the film as a whole, is very haphazard.

For more straightforward family fare you could always brave *Alaska*, where two youngsters and a lolloping bear strive to locate their father's crashed plane and ward off attack from Charlton Heston. The scenery comes up trumps, but the script is dull, and the ponderous direction of Charlton's son Fraser enhances the feeling of an antique film, lost in time.

ALYN SHIPTON

"A Texan Citizen Kane." *Christopher Hitchens DAILY MAIL*

"A movie masterpiece." *Christopher Hitchens DAILY MAIL*

"A shocking plot twist that puts The Crying Game to shame." *Tom Shone DAILY TELEGRAPH*

"Terrific..." *Kirk Northwest DAILY TELEGRAPH*

★★★★★ "99"

*Kirk Northwest DAILY TELEGRAPH*

LONE STAR

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*★★★★★ "99"*

*Kirk Northwest DAILY TELEGRAPH*

NOW SHOWING

CURZON WEST END

RITZ

WICKED

ROTHORN FELTHOUSE



**CHOICE 1**  
Walton's music  
is played by the  
BBC Symphony  
Orchestra

VENUE: Tonight at  
the Festival Hall



**CHOICE 2**  
Neil Bartlett  
directs Shaw's  
*Mrs Warren's  
Profession*

VENUE: In preview at  
the Lyric, Hammersmith

## THE TIMES ARTS



**CHOICE 3**  
In Manchester  
the Hallé  
plays works by  
Hector Berlioz

VENUE: Tonight,  
Bridgewater Hall



**NEW VIDEOS**  
Licence renewed:  
Pierce Brosnan  
gives James Bond  
a sparkling new  
lease of life  
in *Goldeneye*

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**LONDON**  
SHIPPING IN THE DARK Second  
play by James Martin Charlton, about  
the poebs and excellent fat souls A  
group of hedonistic rot, with characters  
named Saint, Sple and the like.  
Warehouses, Dingwall Rd, East  
Croydon. Tel: 0181 680 0000. Mat 8pm.  
Tues 8pm, Then Tues 6.30pm, Wed  
Sat, Sun, Sun, Sun.

**MRS WARREN'S PROFESSION** BBC  
Symphony Orchestra continues its  
series of the music of Sir William  
Walton with a concert featuring Symphonies  
Concertante, Symphony No 2 and  
Fantasy Andante. Details contact  
0171-960 4242. £30. Sat 7pm  
(0171-960 4242). £30. Sun 5pm (0171-  
960 4242).

**ELSEWHERE**  
COVENTRY Dark Russian passions  
are being involved in a concert by the

**TODAY'S CHOICE**  
A daily guide to arts  
and entertainment  
compiled by Marti Hargre

MOSCOW PHILHARMONIC ORCHESTRA tonight. Mat 8pm. Details a  
programme of Mussorgsky, Rachmaninov and Tchaikovsky.  
Warwick Arts Centre, University of  
Lyrics, King St, Hammersmith, W6  
(0181-741 2311). Preview from tonight  
7.30pm. Open Sat 21, 7pm.

**WALTON'S MUSIC** BBC

Symphony Orchestra continues its

series of the music of Sir William

Walton with a concert featuring Symphonies

Concertante, Symphony No 2 and

Fantasy Andante. Details contact

0171-960 4242. £30. Sat 7pm  
(0171-960 4242).

**MANCHESTER** The 19th century  
and other contemporary — are being  
celebrated in an evening of music by

Berlioz and Dufaux. The Hallé

Orchestra under Kees Bakels perform

Overture from Le Corsaire and three

other compositions.

**COMMUNITY** Dark Russian passions  
are being involved in a concert by the

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**THEATRE GUIDE**  
Jeremy Kingston's assessment  
of theatre showing in London

**HOUSE** Full, returns only  
Some seats available  
Seats at all prices

**DIAL M FOR MURDER** Whipping  
thriller, written when phone  
numbers still included letters — and it's  
age-old to set a student.

Age 15+. Tues 7pm, Sat 8pm, Sun  
8.30pm; mat 8pm, Thurs, Sat, Sat, Sat,

**LAUGHTER ON THE CORRIDOR** Floor

Neil Simon's lunny account of  
working among a team of scriptwriters  
for comedy shows. Cast includes

Gene Wilder, Carol Burnett, etc.

**MOJO** Second chance to see the  
much-praised musical about the  
rivalry between two school gangland  
lair Rikken Ochiai. A new cast.

Royal Court Theatre Downstairs  
(Duke of York's), St Martin's Lane,  
WC2 (0171-985 5000). Mon-Sat  
8.30pm; Sun 7.30pm; mat Sat (Oct  
20, Nov 2), 2.30pm. Until November 2

**CINEMA GUIDE**  
Geoff Brown's assessment of  
films in London and elsewhere  
indicated with the symbol ★  
on release across the country

**ABC** **THREE** **FOR** **MURDER** Whipping  
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Age 15+. Tues 7pm, Sat 8pm, Sun  
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**THE MUTTY PROFESSOR** (12)  
Lively Italian remake of the old Jerry  
Lewis film, with Eddie Murphy as the  
misfit professor who creates a sleek alien  
ego. Director, Tom Shadyac.

Clapton Pictures (0143 915653)

**OLIVER!** Haymarket (0123 915253)

Stiles' George (0171 940500)

**SEASIDE** (12) (0171 2727 2727)

Bennett/Green (0123 332011) UCI

**WHITELEY** (5) (0993 886000) Virgin

Chelms (0171 362 5088) Warner (0171-  
37 437 4343).

**EAST IS EAST** (15) STANFORD

Bruce Weitz's run-in with his estranged  
son, a bratty teenager, ends in a fight  
between them. Cast includes

John Cusack, Anna Friel, etc.

**THE TRUTH ABOUT CATS AND DOGS** (15)

Pete's romantic comedy

about a cat and a dog. Director, John

Carrey. Cast includes

Anna Friel, etc.

**THE FIREBIRD** (15) STANFORD

John Cusack's second film as a

cat. Cast includes

John Cusack, Anna Friel, etc.

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**EAST IS EAST** (15) STANFORD

Bruce Weitz's run-in with his estranged



East from Hadrian's Wall, Peter Stothard follows Rome's emperors on a journey to the frontiers of sanity

# An empire ringed with walls of fear

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**O**nce upon a time there were two she-bears called Gold Dust and Innocence who lived outside the bedroom of a Roman emperor. They were extremely happy, especially Innocence because anyone whom the Emperor Valentinian suspected of plotting against him (and that was almost everyone) was thrown alive into their cage. But still they yearned for freedom and a normal family life. So finally their master, anxious that Innocence should have the chance to produce cubs as fierce as herself, took her off into the forest and let her go.

This charming story of life and death in the late 4th century AD comes down to us courtesy of Ammianus, the last great ancient writer of history. It follows an equally striking passage about Valentinian's Eastern emperor brother, Valens, which involves racks, whips, a magic metal plate, a tripod of twigs and several hundred torture victims who would have been infinitely more comfortable in the arms of Gold Dust and her friend.

Ammianus, a Syrian Greek from Antioch, has been described as "the greatest literary genius between Tacitus and Dante". Gibbon relied on him. Modern writers of newspaper profiles owe a debt to his character sketches. But, except for a few bravura passages, he is not much read today.

Thus it is good to see the approval he gains in this new book from a successor in Roman imperial studies. Derek Williams's title may not suggest a gripping entertainment: *The History of the Roman Frontier* threatens a plodding march of the mind around walls and encampments. But the author does more than show where Rome fortified its boundaries; his story is how the hubristic paranoia of emperors, from Augustus to Valentinian, both created Rome's frontiers and opened them to decline and fall.

The armed Roman frontier is most familiar to the British from Hadrian's Wall. It is a familiar concept, too, to those who have witnessed the divided Europe of the 20th century. Ammianus, who lived in the East where Williams guides us along lesser-known defences, had no doubt that walls

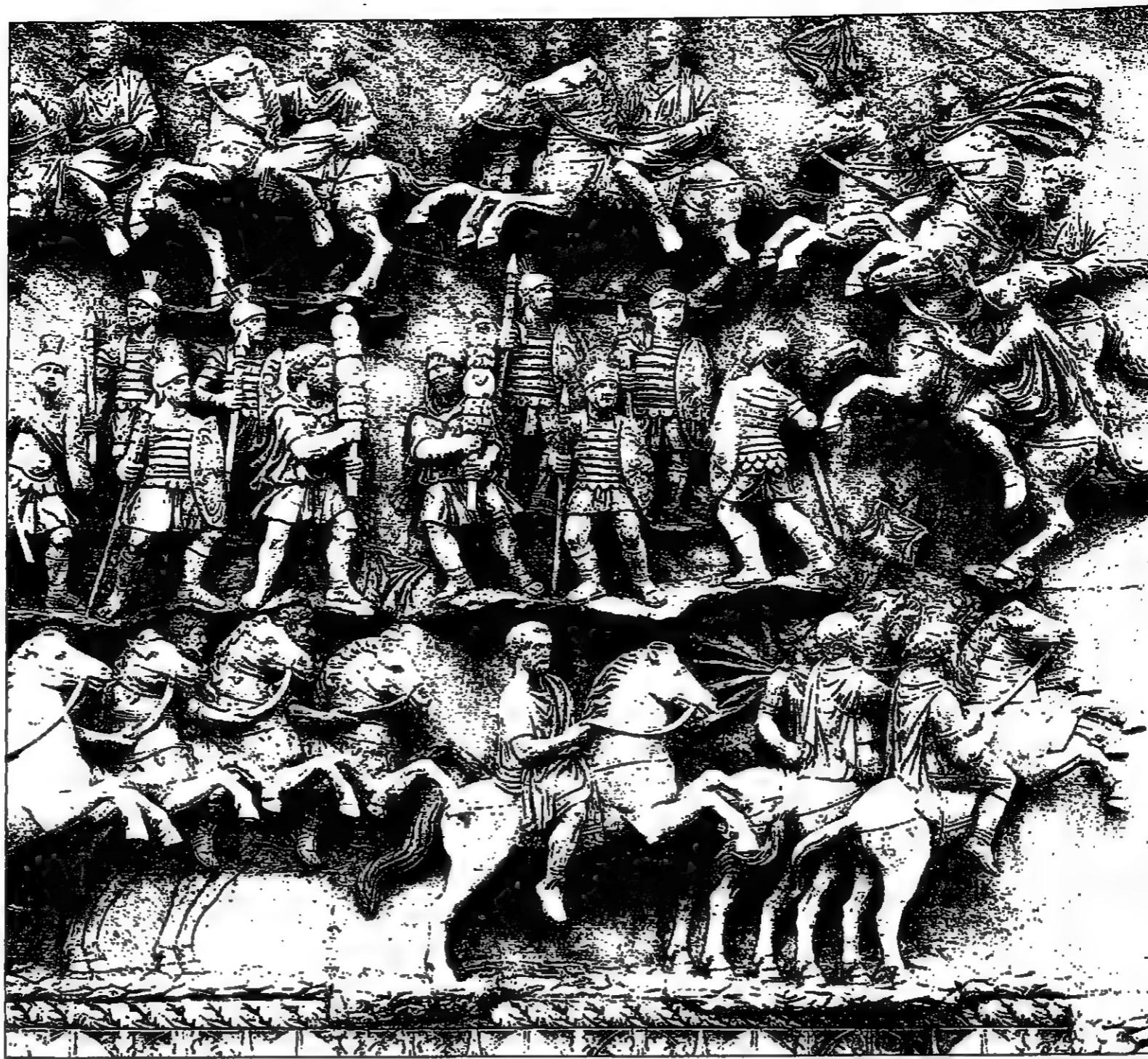
**THE REACH OF  
ROME**  
*A History of the Roman  
Imperial Frontier 1st-  
5th Centuries AD*  
By Derek Williams  
Constable, £25  
ISBN 0 09 476540 5

were the best policy: Valentinian's regrettable choice of bear-food was more than compensated for by his sagacity on the Western front, his recognition that "it was a greater service to keep the barbarians in check by frontier barriers than to defeat them in battle".

A fortified boundary had not always, however, been central to Rome's security. In the years when the city was fastest expanding its power, its most famous generals believed in mobile warfare, the ability to strike, like Julius Caesar in Gaul, with overwhelming force at the point where the enemy was least expecting. Aggressive, mobile attacking forces also provided defence in depth against a potential invader. A thin line of troops strung out along a frontier was, by contrast, only as strong as its weakest point, demanding huge expense in manpower and giving a poor return on the investment.

There were some advantages in a walled empire, of course. Individual cities did not need expensive fortifications as long as the frontier held. Every civilian citizen of Rome could confidently concentrate on business or pleasure without the bother of bearing arms. A wall could even reassure neighbours that Rome had no hostile intent beyond it: Williams gives a persuasive account of how Hadrian's Wall was built with impious disregard of defensive requirements but spectacular potential for showing where Hadrian's British interests ended.

But the most pervasive reason for promoting a policy of armed frontiers was none of these. Augustus never forgot that he had become the first Roman Emperor by force in a civil war. In order that he should not himself be toppled by a fellow general he wanted Rome's soldiers spread far away from home. And as Williams puts it: "All the early



Column dedicated to Antoninus Pius (AD 138-161), whose wall was north of Hadrian's (from *Splendours of the Roman World*, Thames & Hudson, £29.95)

and many of the last emperors would follow his lead, not in deference to Augustus's memory, but because they shared his fears".

**D**uring that time the Empire would sometimes expand (as in the pointless invasion of Britain by the publicity-seeking emperor, Claudius) and sometimes contract (as in Hadrian's masterly abandonment of Mesopotamia and the northern Danube). But the fundamental principle remained: troop concentrations tended to be more dangerous to the leader of the Roman Empire than they were to his enemies. Even on the farthest borders, troops were best kept busy building walls for the glorification of the Emperor. A million man-hours went into Hadrian's folly, Williams estimates.

By the time of Valentinian and Valens, the Roman frontiers were looking about as reliable as the Maginot Line. But no one could grasp the great strategic problem of the age. Ammianus provides a vivid description of Valentinian's death: the Emperor boils over with rage against German protesters who are complaining about a boundary construction; he is struck dumb, turns red, sweats, grinds his teeth and wholly fails to match the late-life peace of his favourite killer bear, Valens. The blood-thirsty brother, has a no less nasty end.

In the end it was left to the conical-headed Hun to show up the Roman frontier for what it had become. The Hun drove on the Goths and in AD 410 the city which had captured the world was itself captured. Innocent's grandchildren had new masters to serve. The paranoid imperial classes had finally something to be properly paranoid about. None of them lived happily ever after.

The author is Editor of The Times.

## Rock-a-bye job

Eric Lomax

**THE ADMIRAL'S BABY**  
By Laurens van der Post  
John Murray, £19.99  
ISBN 0 7195 5742 9

**T**his is the long-promised sequel to Sir Laurens's *Night of the New Moon*, which deals with his experiences as a prisoner of war in Java between 1942 and 1945.

The *Admiral's Baby* is a much more extensive memoir and is an account of Sir Laurens's work in a remarkable postwar operation, the British occupation of Java, 1945-46. Sir Laurens promised to write it while on board HMS *Cumberland*, anchored off Tandjong Priok, probably on September 19, 1945.

August 21, 1945, was one of those dates which is very special to the people concerned.

It is the starting point of this extraordinary story.

In the morning Sir Laurens was the senior British Army officer in a PoW camp of 7,000 men, prisoners of the Japanese, at Bandoeng, in Java.

In the afternoon, after a

summons to appear in front of the local Japanese commanders, he

was invited to assume virtual command of the Japanese forces in Java.

He commenced his new career by issuing orders for the release of the British and Australian servicemen and for Japanese troops to protect the Dutch PoWs and civil internees from the Indonesian nationalists who had declared independence from The Netherlands four days previously.

It is unlikely that any British Army officer has ever before had such an incredible change of status in a matter of hours.

He immediately launched

Sir Laurens describes his months of struggles as a military-political officer, continually trying to bring together the opposing factions and trying to get the Dutch traditionalists to scale down their attempts at reimposing colonial status. And, as if that was not enough, he struggled to protect the 70,000 Dutch PoWs and civil internees who were still in real trouble. His life during his two years of office was a continuous sequence of travel, not only within Java but as far afield as London and The Hague.

This outstanding book is essentially a personal memoir, emotional and sometimes self-congratulatory, rather than history. I am not sure whether to congratulate Sir Laurens on his devotion to duty or to sympathise with him. Who else would have stepped out of a PoW camp, where he had been organising the collection of stones with

which to defend the inmates in the event of an attempted Japanese massacre, into a military and diplomatic appointment with the eyes of the world upon him? Who else would have toiled thus with not a day's leave and without seeing his mother or his family?

While many will disagree with the author's views on war crimes trials or his admiration for the top politicians of the postwar Labour Government, this book is a major contribution to our knowledge of a postwar episode, the British occupation of Java, about which so little has been published.

Sir Laurens describes how help slowly began to arrive. Not until about September 12 did a heavy cruiser, HMS *Cumberland*, slip into Tandjong Priok. Sir Wilfred Patterson, the Admiral of the title, was in command. The British occupation of Java had begun. Over two weeks later the first British troops arrived. The British forces were eventually built up to a strength of 92,000 men, an astonishing figure.

Meanwhile the systematic murder of Europeans began in Sourabaya; this soon turned into real warfare, with heavy casualties. British, Dutch and Indonesian.

As the reader finds out,

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## Still but deadly waters

**A**nguilla is the forlorn outpost of a world-wearied civilisation. The last of the inhabited islands in the Leeward chain, it is a long, flat, featureless lump of scrub-covered coral. For tourists travelling in the Caribbean it is where the island-hopping stops. But few come there. The new hotels which struggle the beaches are still windowless concrete husks. And beyond, out in the sparkling waters of the Aneagada Passage, the hammerhead sharks cruise, unseen and unsleeping. In *Tropical Darkness*, his third novel, David McLaurin

Rachel Campbell-Johnston

**TROPICAL DARKNESS**  
By David McLaurin  
Duckworth, £14.99  
ISBN 0 7156 2735 X

returns to the West Indies where he himself grew up. The island of Anguilla stands as a stark symbol of faded hedonism. It is a refuge for disconsolate dreamers, a resort for futile hope. And if the island setting — isolating, as it does, a disparate gathering of people in artificial circumstances — is felt to be too convenient a fictional device, McLaurin is content at first to let the contrivances strain at the seams.

Duxbury, a malign/ manipulative Prospero, commands centre stage. A former Oxford don with a chill intelligence, he is darkly handsome and unassailably detached. His elder daughter, Caroline, lives with him on the island. Plain, with unexpectedly short hair and a severe, if not unpleasant, moon-shaped face, her sensitivity has been subjugated to practicality and sound common sense. Her sister Artemis, in contrast, has a rich golden beauty. But she is as slim and pale and hard as a marble statue, indifferent to the vagaries of public opinion, to the platitudes or censorships of praise or blame.

The Duxbury family, together with a large, ungainly Anglican canon — a refugee from women priests and a domineering sister in Basingstoke — and Judy, the hard-drinking owner of the local beach-bar, are the principal inhabitants of Anguilla until a yacht weighs anchor in the bay. Charles, the lascivious son of a wealth English family, and his parasitic friend Gianni, a sultry Italian playboy, step ashore.

McLaurin casually throws together the ingredients of a romantic melodrama and idyllic stars. His skill lies in the way it is only gradually, as events slowly simmer, that the deeper convictions and ideas which motivate his characters congeal. Almost imperceptibly the reader finds that all shallow expectations overturned, the novel is confronting such primal concepts as the nature of good and evil, as religion and faithlessness, as the ideals and despairs, the desires and disillusionments which inform all human relationships.

Romantic convention has served all the while as bait for the sharks. The gleaming underbelly of an insatiable past glitters menacingly through the murk of each character's memory. The tute gazes at them with a blank and pitiless eye.

With sharp insight, McLaurin sifts the skin of expectation and lets the viscera of romance ooze: tumbling out. *Tropical Darkness* is an eveted love story which explores an implacable world where to live without love is the slowest form of suicide.

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Offer only available until Oct 29 when the Booker Prize winner will be announced.

Also save £1 off Alice Walker's latest novel *The Same River Twice* (The Women's Press) £16.99 £15.99 and *The Color Purple* £16.99 £14.99

The recently published book, *OpJB*, is an account of how Ian Fleming and Christopher Creighton, the book's author, led an expedition that brought Martin Bormann, Hitler's Secretary, to England at the war's end. The book has been the centre of sensational controversy. Bormann, as the sole executor of Hitler's will, played an essential part in the disposal of Nazi assets in Swiss Banks. Bormann's authority to release such assets was the reason the Allies wanted him in England. This is a matter of supreme historical importance. In the interests of truth, a reward is hereby being made of

**£20,000**

to anyone who can provide evidence that Operation James Bond did not take place.

Conditions of the reward. Applicants must provide direct, first-hand, factual evidence, not based on rumour, gossip, hearsay or opinion, provable in a court of law, that Operation James Bond, as described in *OpJB*, did not take place. Applicants must also be prepared to sign and negate the affidavit produced by Creighton, that *OpJB* did not take place. The facts to be relevant must have occurred between January 1945 and May 15 1945. This offer is open until December 31 1996 and only the first person providing such conclusive evidence will receive the £20,000 reward. If legal costs are involved, each side will pay its own. Applications to be sent to Operation James Bond, c/o Curtis Brown, Haymarket, London.

NEW AUTHORS  
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Douglas Hurd admires the political career of a serene and straightforward Earl who renounced his title and became Prime Minister

# Steady hands to drive the coach of State

In May 1940 Lord Dunglass, MP, underwent a routine Army medical examination in Edinburgh. The resignation of Neville Chamberlain earlier in the month had deprived him of his job as parliamentary private secretary to the Prime Minister and he wanted to rejoin the Lanarkshire Yeomanry for active service. To his annoyance the board told him he was in poor shape and should go away and rest. Later in the summer tuberculosis of the spine was diagnosed, a tricky operation was performed and for nearly two years Sir Alec (as it seems sensible to call him) was encased in plaster and unable to leave his home.

He used the time to read and think. It was the first of three setbacks, any one of which for a less persistent politician might have been conclusive. The second check came when he lost his seat at Lanark in 1945, the third when his father died in 1951, just after he had regained Lanark, and he performed entered the House of Lords as the 14th Earl of Home. After any one of these setbacks Sir Alec might reasonably have abandoned politics for his family, for cricket and racing, for the admirable pleasures and duties which belonged to him in the Borders.

But each time he came back into politics and climbed a little higher up the spider's thread. Mr Thorpe's book traces the reason why. Sir Alec by inheritance and education, found it natural to serve. It was his vocation. Moreover, he had a lively and penetrating interest in party politics. His diffident manner could be deceptive. If he spoke and behaved like an amateur it was because he had many interests outside the game. It did not mean that he was incapable of defending

his wicket and notching up a decent score.

Politicians in recent times have been measured by how much they want to change, and how rough they are in imposing their views on others. Sir Alec would not do well by that test. Once only he rebelled against the orthodoxy of the time, when in early 1948 he helped to lead the Conservative revolt against the Yalta settlement of the Polish question.

His steady suspicion of Soviet

good faith and intentions was a consistent thread throughout his

nervous tension, for example during the Cuban crisis. Sir Alec's serenity was the real thing.

He accepted reluctantly but with clear sight the realities of a changing world. His aim as Commonwealth Secretary and then twice as Foreign Secretary was to manage that change, so that it inflicted the smallest possible shock and damage on Britain. The transformation of southern Africa was one example; the change in the character of the Anglo-American alliance another. From these vantage points of serenity and realism Sir Alec could hold out a hand to those with whose turmoil he sympathised.

Neville Chamberlain was glad to come to the Hirsch in October 1938 to shoot and recuperate. Later Sir Alec corresponded intimately at other times of crisis with Eden and Macmillan. Within his expressions of support were embedded hard nuggets of information. Eden was warned of the mounting anxiety in Cabinet about the Suez operation; Macmillan was advised not to contribute into a 1963 or 1964 general election. Because these three Prime Ministers trusted Sir Alec they accepted from him advice as well as sympathy.

There was no pomp or vanity about Sir Alec. He had no need to assert his position. His traditional education enabled him to dispense with jargon and long argument. I knew him over 30 years, first when I was a very small official and last as one of his successors. He treated me exactly the same from first to last — at all times informal, straightforward and helpful.

Mr Thorpe writes a straightforward and much needed account of a straightforward man. At first I thought that he was including too much of the trivia of government

later life. For the rest, politics for him meant the successful handling of problems as they arose rather than the emphatic assertion of controversial principles. This separated him from the next generation of politicians. As for example, Ian Macleod and Sir Alec never saw eye to eye. Sir Alec regarded his two successors, Ted Heath and Margaret Thatcher, with affectionate bemusement as they attempted their cultural revolutions.

For Sir Alec the main objective of government was to keep the coach on the road. If that meant going a bit slow from time to time, or taking a detour to avoid an obstacle, so be it. The qualities needed of the coachman included serenity, realism and an ability to understand and help others. Macmillan manufactured a reputation as an unpredictable Prime Minister, but his outward serenity concealed acute



The Earl of Home, the then Commonwealth Relations Secretary (left), with Ted Heath, Minister for Labour. Downing Street (1960)

such as the text of resignation letters or the details of ministerial travel. But these are, after all, the daily dice of politics. To leave them out is to distort. In particular they have a place in the story of a man for whom the process of carrying on the Queen's Government was all important.

The centrepiece of the book is a full and convincing account of the events of October 1963 which culminated in Sir Alec becoming Prime Minister. Points which had been obscure, at least to me, became clear — for example the effect of American antagonism to Quintin Hailsham. Thorpe concludes that Sir Alec won "by keeping his options open and by not wanting the prize too much".

As it is well known, Harold Macmillan wrote to the Queen from hospital summarising his findings about the succession. Thorpe quotes from a striking earlier draft, not sent to the Palace, and not released by the Public Records Office until last year. Here in the "Tuesday memorandum" the retiring Prime Minister rummages on the fact that "it is thinking about themselves that is really the curse of the younger generation — they appear to have no other subject which interests them at all". Sir

Alec by contrast, wrote Macmillan, represented the old governing class. He was much liked by men such as Kennedy, Ruskin and Gromyko because the class to which he belonged "think about the question under discussion and not about themselves".

The Rt Hon Douglas Hurd, CH, CBE, MP, was Foreign Secretary 1989-95.



Journey from Buchenwald: boys liberated by Czech partisans at Theresienstadt, May 1945

## Victorious lives

Julia Neuberger is moved by the accounts of Holocaust survivors who found refuge in Britain

This volume of memoirs, a group biography of 732 people, makes almost unbearably painful reading, while being impossible to put down. Martin Gilbert has acted as a conduit for the memories of people, now in their mid-sixties, who came to Britain in 1945 and shortly after, as young concentration camp survivors. They had, in many cases, seen their parents killed, been unable to say goodbye, and had witnessed the most inhuman acts on the part of their persecutors.

One tells of a baby tossed up in the air amidst drunken laughter and caught in a huge pan again and again until he stopped crying. Another tells of the brutal murder, by local village Nazis, of the husband of a wonderful German woman who had sheltered him and another Jew. And still they survived, to become decent "normal" adults.

Gilbert states his "personal reason for writing this book. It is 22 years since I first met Rabbi Hugo Gryn, a survivor of Auschwitz and one of those whose story is told in this book. Not only did he encourage me to devote time to

THE BOYS  
Triumph Over Adversity  
By Martin Gilbert  
Weidenfeld & Nicolson, £20  
ISBN 0 297 81638 1

recording the fate of the Jews during the Second World War, he also introduced me to the members of the '45 Aid Society, of which he was, and is, a part."

Sadly, Hugo Gryn did not live to see this volume published. But his sense of urgency that these experiences should be recorded, and that gratitude should be expressed to those who helped, is amply fulfilled by Martin Gilbert's comprehensive work.

In the summer of 1945, Britain declared itself ready to take up to a thousand young survivors of the Holocaust. Only 732 could be found. They went to Northern Ireland, Scotland, Windermere and Southampton. They had health checks; most were suffering from something — dormant TB was commonplace, frostbite with oozing toe stumps was seen, scarring and deformities as the result of beatings and forced labour the norm.

They were greeted with immense kindness and given sympathetic support before they gradually moved on to hostels. All spent months and years looking for relatives. Only a few found them. After they separated, the need for social contact was paramount. So the Primrose

Club was born, in Belsize Park, London, and the survivors, and others who had reached England in other ways, met regularly. When Zigi Shipper, originally from Lodz by way of hellish experiences, came into the Club on its first evening, he recalled how "I felt I was at home again. I found my family and I found the Boys — and after 50 years we are still together".

For this is ultimately a book about optimism. They survived. They made good. They were helped by the inspirational Leonard Montefiore, by Jean Stiebel, by prewar refugees from Nazi Germany, and by many others. They helped each other with their mutual support. The manner of these stories is specific and shocking and matter-of-fact. The shock comes in the irony of the matter-of-factness. Trevor tells us the most disturbing things in the most unemphatic way, and we believe him for as long as each narrative lasts.

The occasional bizarre detail only adds verisimilitude. Trevor knows that a psychopathic killer living at home with his mother will eat Mr Kipling cakes and that a thing might quote Milton unwillingly when trying to score with a girl. At one point, in passing, he has mention of a man who claims to like the taste of paper. The man does not seem important to the story, and he is gone almost as soon as mentioned, but we remember him. Later, it might occur to us that this paper-eater was important because the person who told us about him has turned out to be someone who reports on odd things noted in others as a way of deflecting attention from his own much more sinister oddities.

The method employed is as recommended in Robert Graves's *Advice to Story-Tellers*: "Nice contradiction between fact and fancy! Will make the whole read human and exact." It is that kind of realism which makes this world so lively.

Trevor has a fine ear for dialogue and something of a poet's feel for language. Which brings me back to my basic point. This writer is in his stories like a poet taking a deep breath and expanding upon the kind of people and events crystallised (say) in a few stanzas by Philip Larkin. More than one of these stories made me think of Larkin's poem *The Whitsun Weddings*, which also ends on just that note of ambiguous affirmation which Trevor favours as a way of ending things.

Julia Neuberger is a poet and



Trevor: prose poet

## Breathing life into language

Robert Nye

AFTER RAIN  
By William Trevor  
Viking, £16  
ISBN 0 670 87002 2

land at work in fiction today. Not for him the kind of overwriting which some would think inevitable in this context. It is just that he sets down about his native land a number of things which seem true to life, as well as strange to a foreigner.

*Widows*, in which a woman pays money to a crooked painter and decorator to prevent the memory of her dead husband being tarnished by the tradesman's claim that a bill was not met, is a key story here. Seldom can the complexities of small-town Irish life have been so ruthlessly unravelled.

*Lost Ground* tells much about the troubles of the North by recounting different sectarian reactions to a Protestant boy's vision of a saint.

Generally, the more Trevor is involved in his subjects the better he writes. He writes of ordinary people pitched momentarily into extraordinary situations and learning something about themselves and their society as a result. He can be amusing about Ireland, too, in *The Potato Dealer* two men draw up their vehicles alongside each other on the public highway to do business, ignoring the hooting of horns.

"They were of the neighbourhood, local people, the road was more theirs than strangers."

## Unsound remainders

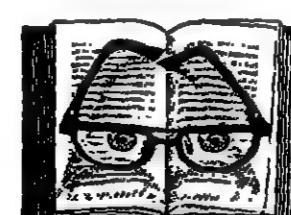
FOR SOME years, second-hand and antiquarian bookshops have been in retreat. The trade has increasingly been conducted at fairs, by post, and now via electronic cataloguing and book-searches. Many small shops have closed or become outliers for the sorry booming trade in remainders.

Pairs are certainly flourishing. Coming up in London are the Cheltenham fair, November 8-9, and an international fair of artists' books, at the Barbican, November 15-17.

Yet the pendulum may be swinging back. The Antiquarian Book Arcade at 37 Great Russell Street is a year old. Run by Bohemian Bookworm, it acts as a display case for SO or so dealers.

Several dealers also show fine books in the basement of Jack Duncan Cartoons at 44 Museum Street.

A further sign of confidence in the traditional bookshop is the move of two prominent bookellers into posh Mayfair premises. Simon Finch has bought a

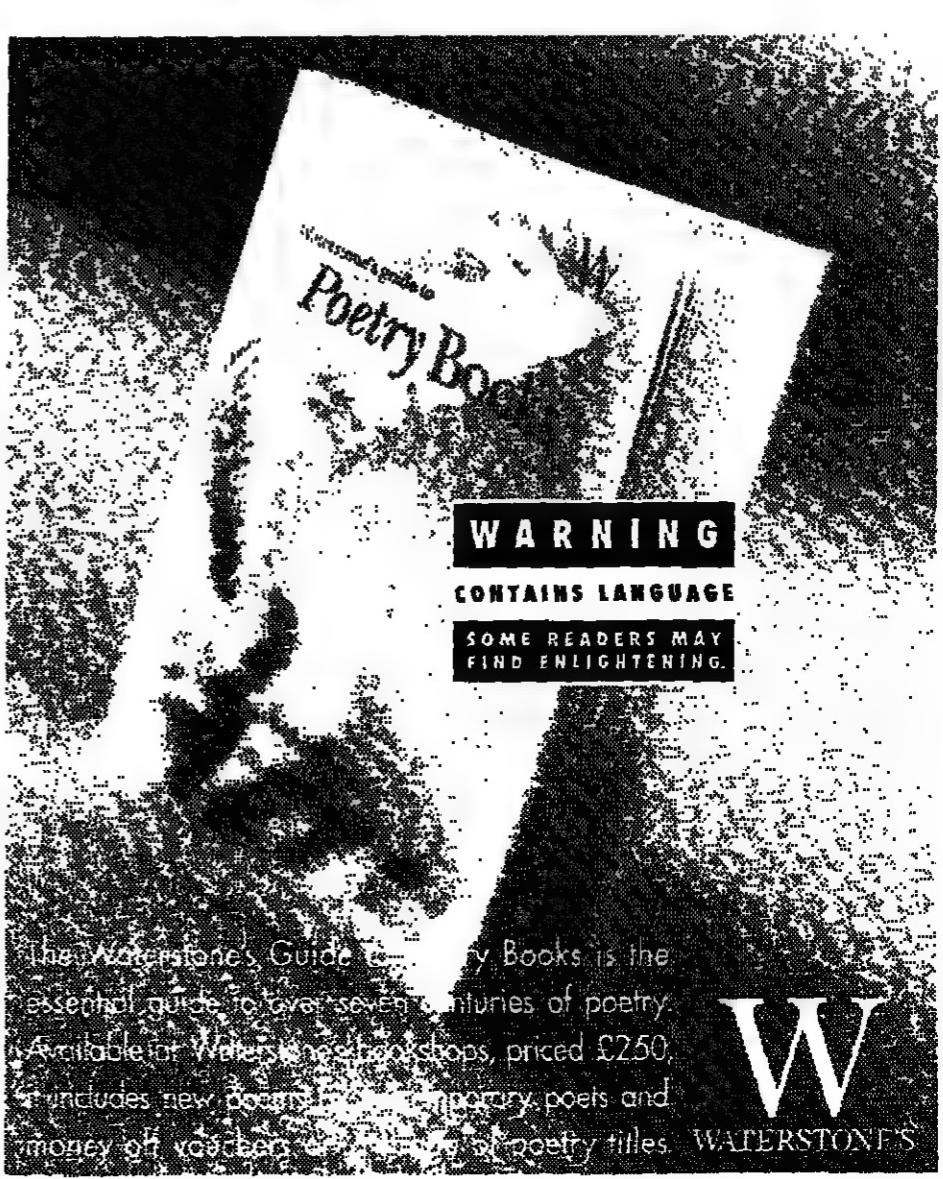


BIBLIOMANE

whole building in Maddox Street. For the first time this will give him a shop-window, and he says he hopes people will be more likely to call in: but not too many people.

Bernard J. Shapero has moved from Holland Park to 32 St George Street. Specialising in literary leather-bindings, travel and plate books, Shapero will presumably need to move into the same leagues as the long-established Maggs and Sotheby's. His most recent catalogue offered John Gould's own copy of his "Toucans" with nine plates by Edward Lear (large folio, £1834, £5,000).

JIM McCUE



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## Bargains of the week — from seven days for £99 on the Costa Dorada to taking a cruise down the Nile

### NOTES

A 50 PER cent reduction in the published room rate over Christmas is on offer from the May Fair Inter-Continental Hotel in central London. The rate from December 16 to January 12 is £135 a room a night including breakfast and VAT. Details: 0171-629 7777.

■ THE Palace Hotel in Buxton, Derbyshire, has an autumn break package of £78 a person for two nights based on double occupancy, including dinner, bed and breakfast. The offer is available until November 30. Details: 01298 22001.

■ THE White Hart Hotel, a 16th-century coach inn at Braintree in Essex, has a special pre-Christmas rate from November 28 until December 24 of £45 double and £36 single instead of the usual rates of £71 and £59.50 respectively. The only requirement is that you eat in the hotel restaurant. Details: 01376 321401.

■ THE Grosvenor House hotel in London has pre-Christmas offers from December 3-5 at £170 a night based on double occupancy but not including breakfast. A brochure detailing other Christmas deals, including lunch discounts in the hotel restaurants is also available. Details: 0171-499 6363.

■ THE JOCKEY Peter Scudamore will be the guest speaker at the Hilton National in Newbury on November 29 for a Hennessy Gold Cup dinner. This is part of a two-night racing weekend package costing £226 a person. Details: 0345 581595.

■ A HALLOWEEN break at Westover Hall in the New Forest costs £60 a person a night, including dinner when booked through Crystal Britain. The local ghost is reputed to be the nanny of the original owner, the German industri-

alist Alex Siemens. Details: 0181-990 8513.

■ THE three-day Christmas Special at Dukes Hotel in St James's Place, central London, includes Boxing Day transport to Kempion Park for the racing, as well as lunch and a gala dinner. Price is £50 a person for three nights. Details: 0171-491 4840.

■ GUESTS and day visitors to the 16 Novotel hotels in the UK will be find apples in their rooms on October 21 to celebrate National Apple Day organised by Common Ground, the environmental charity. Details: 0181-2377474.

■ WINTER break rates at Jersey's Atlantic Hotel, a member of the Small Luxury Hotels of the World Consortium, fall from £75 a person a night based on double occupancy to £65 a night from October 28 until December 19. Details: 01534 44101.

■ THE Hyatt La Manga Club resort in Spain has a special room rate available until the end of the year, excluding Christmas and the new year, of 20,500 pesetas (about £100) a night for double occupancy instead of the usual rate of 31,500 pesetas. The offer is based on a minimum of two nights. Details: 0345 581606.

■ STENA Line Holidays is selling three nights for the price of two at Disneyland Paris for the Christmas season. Based on two adults and two children sharing a room at Hotel Cheyenne, prices are £146 each for adults and £39 a child to include crossing and entry. Details: 0990 747474.



Andalucia highlight: the town of Ronda that provided the setting for Ernest Hemingway's *For Whom the Bell Tolls*

### FERRIES

SEA FRANCE is selling a package of three day returns on its Dover-Calais route valid for travel in October, November and December. The price is £23 for all three trips for a car plus four people. Two trips cost £16; otherwise day-trips cost £9 a time — with free sparkling wine on each crossing. Details: 0990 717711.

■ BRITANNY FERRIES offers a mini-cruise to Santander in northern Spain from Portsmouth or Plymouth for £49 a person, to include a cabin in berth and afternoon in Santander. Details: 0990 360360.

■ IRISH FERRIES has introduced a winter fare from £105 for a car and up to five adults on its Pembroke-Rosslare route. The 48-hour return is valid until December 17. The same ticket on Holyhead-Dublin costs from £119. Details: 0345 171717.

■ P&O EUROPEAN Ferries has motorising holidays in Ireland available from £59 a person to include two nights B&B, based on four sharing a car. The company operates between Cairnryan and Larne in Northern Ireland. Details: 0990 980888.

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■ BUSINESS-CLASS passengers flying for Johannesburg can fly for less than half price with Sabena via Brussels. Travelbag has negotiated a return fare of £899, compared with the usual £2,215.

AMERICAN EXPRESS Gold and Platinum cardholders qualify for thousands of pounds worth of savings through the offer of flight upgrades and/or free companion tickets. The deals are valid during selected periods between now and 1997, with Qantas, American, Continental, Cathay Pacific and Emirates. Details: 01273 697207.

■ AIR UK has £59 excursion fares to Amsterdam, Paris and Rotterdam, provided you book today. Details: 0345 666777.

■ ASIAN AIRFAIR Holidays will fly two people to Singapore and Penang and provide seven nights' accommodation for £599 each. Details: 0171-439 2601.

■ ECONOMY passengers flying Philippine Airlines to Manila can upgrade to business class comfort and service for an extra £350. Details: 0171-499 9446.

■ DEPARTURES are from various UK airports. Details: 0161-740 5998.

■ ANDALUSIA highlights feature in an eight-day coach tour available from Archer Tours. Flights are from Gatwick, Manchester, Cardiff and Glasgow on November 10. Prices from £335 a person. Details: 01534 874666.

■ POSTA Vecchia. John Paul Getty's former home north of Rome, now a Relais & Chateaux hotel, is included in four-day winter breaks on offer from CV Travel. Prices for two nights half-board at the hotel, a further night in a Rome hotel and return scheduled flights start at £680 a person. Details: 0171-589 0132.

■ GOLFERS can enjoy up to five rounds and two nights' bed and breakfast buffet at Hotel du Parc, northern France, with French Golf Holidays for £127 a person mid-week (£10 more at weekends), including return SeaCat travel. Details: 01277 574374.

■ EXPLORE Jordan for a week with Bales Tours for £575, with a flight from Heathrow on November 18, or for £499 leaving on December 2. The price includes bed and breakfast accommodation and sightseeing, including Petra and the Dead Sea. Details: 01306 876881.

■ GET-FIT-to-ski cycling breaks, exercising the muscles used on the slopes, are available, from £25 a person, from Cotsword Cycling Company on three weekends between now and Christmas. Accommodation is at Cheltenham's Hallyer House hotel. Details: 01242 250642.

■ PRE-CHRISTMAS skiing for half the high-season price is available from Meriski. The week from December 13, in luxury chalets, costs from £399 a person. Four-course dinners with receptions beforehand and a minibus shuttle to the slopes are included. Details: 01420 541007.

■ SIMPLY TROPIX is offering a ten-night holiday combining two of Asia's newest deluxe hotels, the Andaman on Langkawi, Malaysia, and the Conrad International, Singapore, for £985 a person from November 7 to December 10 with Malaysia Airlines flights. Details: 0181-875 1777.

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This is  
the time  
for great  
bargains

Once the half-term  
surge is over, the travel  
industry will head  
into the winter doldrums.

In resorts around the Mediterranean, sun-shades are being stored away, beach bars closed for refurbishment and aircraft flown off to operate in parts of the world where summer is just around the corner.

But as the travel industry counts its profits, now is the time for canny folk with time to spare to take advantage of low prices and to grab a short break before the run up to Christmas.

Some may want to catch the sun before winter turns the healthiest skin pale, others may prefer to stay nearer home to enjoy the lingering autumn colours.

Here are a few suggestions from my own favourites:

□ Dubai: The industry's best-loved "secret" destination, Thomson is offering three nights in the five-star Jumeira Beach for £675 from November.

□ Cyprus: An excellent time of year to visit the island, which can be brash and crowded at the height of the season. A week's holiday with flights and bed and breakfast accommodation at the Cyprus Maris hotel is available through Sunvil for £450.

□ Washington: As the "fall" moves south, Virginia becomes spectacular. Virgin Holidays is offering return flights with car hire included, for £329 a person. Accommodation in the United States is high quality but cheap.



□ Nice: At this time of the year, finding hotel accommodation near enough to walk to the seafront, is easy. Getting there now costs £149, with a British Airways World Offer, compared with the usual £220 return fare. With Easyjet, it costs £98 return, but flights are from Luton.

□ St Malo: Overnight on Brittany Ferries from Portsmouth then drive to Bayeux and spend two nights at the Château de Sully, which now has a Michelin star. Return on the day service from nearby Caen. Price for two people and car, inclusive of cabin on the outward ferry, and dinner bed and breakfast at the château, is £210.50.

□ St Ives: Anyone over 50 with an interest in music can have a four-night break with Saga at the Carbis Bay Hotel from November 4 for £169, not including travel. It includes lectures on the lives of the great composers plus music appreciation.

□ Scotland: The Deside Hotel at Ballater, near Balmoral, features three nights' accommodation with dinner, bed and breakfast for £95. Autumn Gold, the Scottish Tourist Board brochure, has a wide range of travel offers, including two for one return flights and rail services.

□ The Cotswolds: Four people can share the Old Dairy Cottage at Broadway for three days for a total of £165 with Country Holidays.

Me? I'm spending three nights at a country cottage near Bridport in Dorset. And despite my means about Scotland last week, I would still go back to Italy.

# Family's timeshare victory

By TONY DAWE

A FAMILY from Manchester has won back the money paid for a timeshare that failed to live up to its promises in an out-of-court settlement that could bring hope to many.

Stuart and Anne McBurnie agreed to buy a timeshare apartment in the Algarve for an off-peak week every year on the understanding that they could take their two small children to other properties in school holidays for a small extra charge. When they received the contract, however, they were horrified to find that holidays could not be taken in peak periods.

The McBurnies had entered into a finance agreement to pay for the timeshare and it was by pursuing the finance house, claiming misrepresentation of the terms of the contract and citing the provisions of the Consumer Credit Act, that they won the case.

The McBurnies should have been protected by the Timeshare Act, which provides for a 14-day cooling-off period to allow purchasers to change their minds but the company offering the deal failed to send the details until three weeks after the initial agreement was made.

"We made dozens of phone calls but our complaints were fobbed off," says Stuart McBurnie. In desperation he turned to a local company that specialises in challenging dubious contracts and last week succeeded in securing an agreement involving the refund of the £4,700 spent on the timeshare plus the cost of disputing the deal.

"It is a great relief to have won the case but it should be a warning to other timeshare clients," he says. "I made all the classic mistakes. I went along to the Holiday Exchange International presentation only because a free holiday was on offer but I got hooked on the idea."

A representative tried to sell me an apartment for a peak period that I could not afford but I was persuaded to buy a cheaper one on the understanding that we would have easy access to other properties whenever we liked. The offer was made verbally, which proved useless when the contract finally arrived.

The McBurnies had entered into a finance agreement to pay for the timeshare and it was by pursuing the finance house, claiming misrepresentation of the terms of the contract and citing the provisions of the Consumer Credit Act, that they won the case.

Ian Wallwork, marketing director of Contract Consulting, which took up the case, says: "Thousands of families were attracted to timeshares because of the promise of cheap holidays in resorts around the world. Unfortunately, the go where you want, when you want" sales patter often turns out to be untrue.

But as Mr and Mrs McBurnie's case clearly demonstrates, if the contract is misrepresented there is a very good chance that families can get their money back."

The Timeshare Council, the trade association, says that Holiday Exchange offered to upgrade the McBurnies to a busier time of year without charge after receiving their complaint. A spokeswoman adds that the council receives about 30 complaints a week but most of them concern agreements signed by British holidaymakers in the Canaries and Balearics where a legal cooling-off period does not yet exist.

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A representative tried to

## Kingdom loses its secrets

By TONY DAWE

A SECRET kingdom in a remote corner of England will be revealed next week when a long-term campaign is started to make north Northumberland as popular with tourists as the Lake District and the Yorkshire Dales.

Leaders of the local holiday industry, eager to cash in on the tourism boom in the area, which has fine beaches, the beautiful Cheviot Hills and a dozen handsome castles, have joined forces to create a partnership as part of one of the biggest tourism initiatives ever undertaken in the North of England.

The organisation — which has been awarded grants by the Department of Trade & Industry and the Rural Development Commission — has the blessing of the Northumbrian Tourist Board, which used to promote the area, together with County Durham, Tyneside and Wearside.

Peter Forrester, the project director of Marketing Partnership 2000, says: "We have decided that it is time to give the region its own identity. We will be promoting it as 'The Secret Kingdom' because the region used to be a kingdom in neolithic times and during the Dark Ages.

"It also played an important part in history with the dev-



White cattle at Chillingham Castle, where the Secret Kingdom campaign will be launched

to make exploring the region more fun."

Mr Forrester, who also runs a country cafe and store, has been joined in the partnership by 150 organisations with tourism interests, including hotels, guest houses, museums and caravan and camp sites.

Like all modern campaigns, The Secret Kingdom will have its own logo based on a visual

interpretation of the castle on Holy Island. It will be unveiled on Tuesday at the launch, which is being held at Chillingham Castle, the home of the distinctive white cattle of the same name.

Last year, Northumbria as a whole attracted more than three million visitors, about half the number who went to the Lake District and the Yorkshire Dales.

Employees of Britain's buoyant travel industry recreated the last night of the Proms at the Royal Albert Hall this week before the presentation of 22 TTG-American Express travel awards, writes Harvey Elliott.

More than 400 travel agents were invited to the ceremony by Kuoni as a "reward" for selling their holidays.

The winners were picked by readers of *Travel Trade Gazette*, the industry newspaper. British Airways, British Midland and Virgin each won a category in the business section with Britannia named as the top charter airline. Other winners included Kuoni, Butlin's, Cresta First Choice, Inghams, Unjet, P&O Cruises and Stena Line. Thomson was named both the top major tour operator and the best short-haul operator. The travel writer of the year is the freelance Stanley Stewart.

The company is now accepting bookings with a £750 deposit for the cruises, described in a brochure called "It Only Happens Once Every Thousand Years".

The remainder of France

has been split into four re-

## France's big phone switch

By STEVE KEENAN

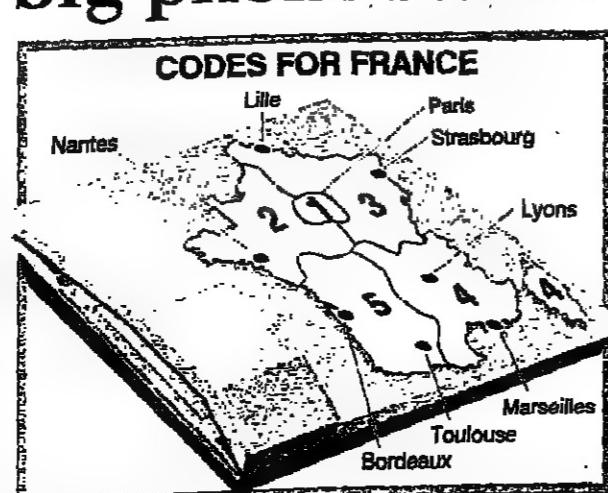
VISITORS to France will find every telephone number in the country, outside Paris, has changed this weekend.

More than 26 million numbers will have an extra digit added to the existing eight in the big switch, which will happen at 10 pm GMT tomorrow. But unlike a similar exercise in the UK, where "parallel running" enabled callers using the old number to get through for a limited period, this will not happen.

The new numbering plan will provide a "vast reserve" of numbers for several decades to come.

Most callers from the UK who forget to add an extra digit will hear a recorded message referring them to a BT or Mercury operator.

France Telecom has sent 10,000 letters to businesses exporting to France, to French residents in the UK and to members of the French Chamber of Commerce. But tourists calling for information are bound to face a period of



confusion when they find that the number 0 has been added to all numbers on domestic calls.

Callers from the UK will find no change to the six million Paris numbers that already have the digit 1 in front of the normal eight digits. International dialling codes for Paris remain 00 33 (0), followed by the eight digits.

The remainder of France has been split into four re-

## New Year trip of a lifetime

HUNDREDS of passengers are already booked to spend New Year's Eve 1999 celebrating in style in exotic destinations with Cunard Millenium cruises.

The most popular ship, says the company, is the QE2, which has already taken bookings from more than 100 passengers who plan to see in the year 2000 relaxing in luxury off the coast of Barbados.

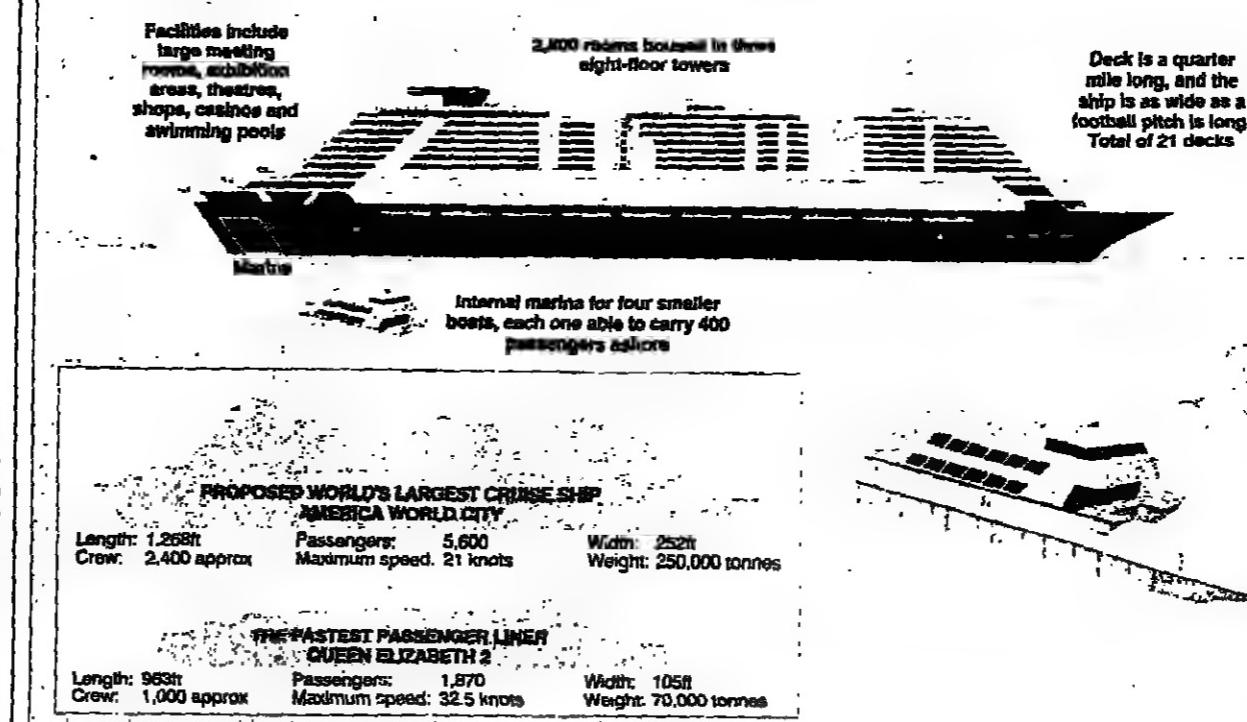
And four other ships in the Cunard fleet which will be at sea as the next millennium begins are rapidly filling up. They will be making voyages to Acapulco, the Holy Land, Virgin Gorda in the British Virgin Islands, and the Philipines.

The company is now accepting bookings with a £750 deposit for the cruises, described in a brochure called "It Only Happens Once Every Thousand Years".

The remainder of France

## AMERICA WORLD CITY

GRAPHIC DAVID HART GEOFFREY SIMS



## World's largest floating city to navigate buoyant cruise market

By DAVID CHURCHILL

THE world's biggest cruise ship — more than twice the size of the current largest liner and more than three times the size of the QE2 — is due to be launched before the end of the decade by the US-based Westin Hotels Company.

Bartels, chief executive officer of Westin.

"We are very excited to enter the cruise ship business in such a historic manner."

Not everyone, however, believes that such a massive ship can pay off. "Our research has shown that the economics of scale and logistics of operating a large cruise ship suggest that about 100,000 tonnes is the maximum size to operate efficiently," says Michael Muller, managing director of Carnival Cruise Lines.

The America World City, which will cost £800 million, will house its capacity of 5,600 passengers in 2,800 cabins. These will be located in three eight-floor towers built on a deck a quarter of a mile long and as wide as the length of a football field. There will be 21 decks in total and the ship will also have a crew of 2,400.

A special feature of the vessel will be an internal marina in the hull. The marina will house four small boats, each able to carry 400 passengers ashore at destinations where the mother ship is too big to dock. Other facilities on the ship will include large meetings and exhibition space, theatres, shops, casinos and swimming pools.

The ship, which is due to go into service in 1999, will be the first major passenger vessel to be built in the United States for almost 50 years, and parts of it will be built in several American locations before final assembly. It will cruise the east coast of America and the Gulf of Mexico. Three more similar size ships are planned.

The trend towards large ship construction reflects both the buoyancy of the cruise industry — passenger numbers are expected to be about 20 per cent ahead this year — and the demand for more on board facilities.

"We have to market ourselves more as floating resort hotels now," Mr Muller says.

Carnival Cruise Lines has added on-board features such as a 200ft water chute for children, as well as the traditional pool, to cater for families.

The demand for cruise holidays has been fuelled by young families who are choosing them for their holidays and by the move by both Thomson Holidays and Airtrours to launch low-price cruise holidays using their own ships.

## Caribbean island promotes volcano

By TONY DAWE

Tourism chiefs on the Caribbean island of Montserrat have decided to promote the active volcano, which has been threatening to engulf much of the British colony, as a tourist attraction rather than a menace.

They claim that the 3,000ft high Chances Peak is the only active British volcano and is a spectacular sight, especially on clear evenings.

"Where else on earth can you see such a natural phenomenon?" asks Gloria Bookbinder Mulder, of the newly formed Montserrat Initiative Group. "Visitors are fascinated when they see the volcano, and helicopter trips around its dome are proving very popular for those who wish for a closer view."

This enthusiasm echoes the mood of tourist officials in Iceland who report a surge of interest in the country because of the volcanic eruptions beneath Vatnajokull glacier but it contrasts dramatically with the reaction on Montserrat when the volcano first erupted in July last year after lying dormant for 400 years.

More than half the island's 11,800 population was evacuated to northern districts from Plymouth, the capital, and southern areas close to the erupting volcano. Hundreds of residents fled the island altogether and the Royal Navy destroyer Southampton stood by, ready for a mass evacuation if the volcano erupted fully.

Some southern residents have begun to return to their homes but Mrs Mulder admits that disruption to daily life continues, although the main offices and stores are functioning.

The tourism group claims that many of the island's attractions, including its famous black sand beach and much of the wildlife, have not been affected by the clouds of ash that have fallen from the volcano. The Sea Wolf diving school is continuing to operate, arranging shallow and deep dives to see the coral and tropical fish.

The slogan of the Montserrat Tourist Board is "The Caribbean as it used to be and that is still true," says Mrs Mulder. "There is no building higher than three storeys, no crime problem, not a single traffic light and we do not even have a McDonald's."

Most hotels, villas and apartments are open and tour operators are continuing to offer holidays to the island.

Jane Roche, the marketing manager of Simply Caribbean, says: "We are still selling villa holidays on the island and accommodation at the well-known Vue Pointe bungalow hotel but we are constantly monitoring the situation."

## IN THE TIMES ON SATURDAY

Travel the world again in Weekend

● Jeremy Wayne in Geronna

● Canada special: Vancouver, Banff and Montreal

● Skiing: Switzerland

● Richard Binns on the plight of French hoteliers and chefs

● Britain: Hastings and Battle

# Can we really afford to eat cheap junk food?

**WHEN** men's alternative and at Trade reasons Esse ed to ir cation that the regular compa stamens and the look at Arjo suppor both in stamens "annus Apples and the The spouse consid docum the six respon functio considermance together review holder ments, discos the su A fi

We live in an age of anxiety. We worry obsessively about the food we eat and our fears are fanned by a new scare almost every week. At the same time we have never been more aspirational.

We are consumed with a passion for the exotic, for experimentation and novelty. If it's new we want it, and we want it now.

You mean you don't have ostrich steaks? What kind of a place are you running? Where is the polenta, the saffron potatoes, the balsamic vinegar and the discreet dribble of truffle oil on the girolles? Bring out the lemon grass and lime leaf, bring on the seared tuna sashimi: astonish us with your basil-scented beurre blanc, your black bean salsa, your minted couscous and a taste of Pagnol tapenade.

Supermarkets are experts at detecting the slightest *frisson* on the gastronomic seismograph and search the world for tempting new tastes. They have skilfully laid their lines of supply on a global scale so that almost everything can be had all year round.

These days, food has little to do with hunger, more to do with lifestyle. It was defined for me a few years ago in the Napa valley when I was on a tour around the latest fashionable boutique winery. "My husband," said our guide, "is into gerr-MAY. He's seriously

People are seriously into food and the way it is produced these days



DEREK COOPER

organic." She conjured up visions of a connoisseur spending quality time at the stove.

I suspect, now that food and wine have been turned into a hobby, we're all into gourmet. Chefs on television, dazzle us with their skill. There are food game shows, food quizzes, food sitcoms and wine documentaries.

Everybody has a cellar these days, even if it is only the cupboard under the stairs. Our larders overflow with gourmet products. Food and wine sections dominate the weekend supplements and elbow pursuit such as DIY off the bookshelves. Gourmet has never had a higher or more profitable profile.

Guides abound to every aspect of gourmet, for we are desperately keen on making the correct choices. Is it organic? Is it ethically acceptable? Were the peasants who grew the coffee paid enough?

Knowing exactly what you are eating and drinking has never been more essential. The BSE catastrophe has alerted us all to the high price we have to pay for cheap food produced

not for its quality but for its quantity. We are, rightly, worried about the methods used by the food and farming industry to fill our trolleys.

Decades of chemically dependent intensive farming, the use of drugs and antibiotics in the animal sheds, the presence of pesticide residues in vegetables, the potential dangers of new technology such as irradiation and genetic engineering, the widespread use of cosmetic additives to tart up junk food, have created a new kind of shopper — one who scrutinises labels and walks warily down the aisles.

It is the small producer who most actively responds to this request for more natural food, produced using farming methods that respect the countryside and animals. The new attitude to food production is forging links between consumers and farmers which have not existed before. Organic vegetable box schemes are no longer considered to be quirky.

Perhaps we need a new word for the kind of food and drink that aspires to the highest standards. The umbrella label is currently "speciality" which implies luxury items for a niche market. It is an attitude that does the food and drinks industry a disservice.

Are we really happy to accept a situation in which there are two kinds of food — stuff produced cheaply which raises no expectations, and speciality products made in small quantities for a small market?

Polarising food in this manner has produced a two-tier market where the options are geared to price. You can have real cider or industrial cider; real ice-cream or a product made with vegetable oil; real cheese properly matured or slab cheese with no noticeable flavour: real sausages or those made from slurry.

Food made properly, for those who care about how they feed their families, and junk for those who do not care, or, more likely, cannot afford the option of good food — surely these options should not be embraced by a civilised society.

The lesson we should all learn from this festival, sponsored by *The Times*, *Sunday Times* and Wine, is that good food is not just for special occasions. If food is not good in every sense of the word we should not be producing it.

• Derek Cooper is the presenter of Radio 4's *The Food Programme*



Visitors to this year's festival will find a wealth of expert information and a huge variety of new tastes to try out

## A feast for the gourmet palate

Michael Kallenbach on the pleasures awaiting visitors to the festival

More than 27,000

food and wine enthu-

siasts are expected

to attend the International

Festival of Fine Wine

and Food being held at Olympia for four days from October 24.

From its beginnings 15

years ago as a gathering of wine buffs, the festival has

evolved over the past three

years into a celebration of

both fine food and fine drink

and the emphasis is now firmly directed at guiding discerning consumers towards gourmet foods and high quality beverages. There will be about 220 exhibitors, split evenly between those presenting food-oriented

products, particularly speciality foods and ingredients, and those featuring wine, spirits, liqueurs and beers.

Displays will include British cheeses, Japanese dishes, Scottish delicacies, specialty foods, wine tours, cookery courses, international beers, and speciality drinks.

Demonstrations will be given on the mixing of cocktails and visitors to *The Sunday Times* Wine Club Tasting Tunnel will be able to try single varietal wines and compare them to the aromas of the fruits, spices and herbs they are said to resemble.

Masterclasses sponsored by *WINE* magazine will feature tastings of classic vintages. All the major wine producing nations will be represented, displaying a comprehensive range of the differing styles and varieties of wines produced in the mid to upper price range.

Two new countries, Romania and the Ukraine, are making their debut on the British market. And while German beers will undoubtedly capture many palates, there will be other unusual beers from the Czech Republic and from South Africa.

A team of top chefs and wine experts will be passing on their secrets. Frances Bissell, *The Times* cook; Valentine Harris from Italy; Antony Worrall Thompson, bistro and Mediterranean specialist; and Bruno Loubet,

from the Odeon restaurant on Regent Street, will be among the experts.

Alastair Little, whose new restaurant in Lancaster Road, near Portobello Road, is wooing the crowds away from Soho, will be there and has coincidentally just brought out his third cookery book *Italian Kitchen* (Ebury Press, £19.99). "Italian cookery," he says, "with its honesty and full sun-ripened flavours, has never been more popular." The book is based on Little's cookery course at La Caccia in Umbria.

More than 60 per cent of the food exhibitors are small spe-

cialist producers or importers of quality foods, including farmhouse cheeses, foie gras, gourmet breads, oysters, olives, oils, chocolates, teas and coffees, and oriental sauces. There are also more exotic exhibits such as kangaroo, ostrich and alligator.

Leading supermarkets are promoting specific aspects of their business. Asda is sponsoring introduction to wine-tasting seminars, Tesco is showing its best-selling cheeses and sponsoring the British Cheese Awards. Sainsbury's is exhibiting its new fine foods section and showing why it has been chosen as best supermarket retailer of the year for the past two years by *WINE* magazine, which is co-sponsoring the festival with *The Times* and *The Sunday Times*.

• Because of the licensing laws, no children under 18 can be admitted.

## Sampling the

Frances Bissell describes the joy of discovering all the culinary treasures on display at the festival

Whenever I give cooking demonstrations at the festival at Olympia, I try to leave myself plenty of time, before or after, to visit as many stands as I can. It is an excellent opportunity to taste new products and to get reacquainted with old favourites, and all under one roof.

On the whole, the products you see are from small, specialist producers in Britain and abroad, without the mass market capabilities required by the supermarkets. Some, however, will undoubtedly find their way onto the specialist shelves of the supermarket's flagships.

If you were to plan your itinerary carefully, you could taste your way through a whole meal, although I am sorry to see the absence of specialist organic meat producers this year, so no lovely smell of banter to tempt you to the stand.

But you can sample your way from oysters to anchovies from Cuan Oysters and La Monegasque respectively, right through to a fine selection of chocolates and other delights for after dinner from The Chocolate Club and Clements E Companhia.

On the last stand, you will

find Elvas plums, the authentic sugar plums so beloved of the Victorians at Christmas.

Made in true artisan fashion

and packed in attractive boxes

with hand-painted ceramics, these sweetmeats also make lovely and unusual gifts. I visited the Conservas Rainha Santa in Portugal not long ago, one of only two remaining producers, and I was much taken with the painstaking care taken with the fruit at all stages of preserving it. Portuguese food has not been seen much in Britain, so the produce on this stand is particularly welcome.

As well as dried fruit, air-cured hams and chouricos from Lamego and Serra d'Estrela, you will find Conservas Rainha Santa cold-pressed extra virgin olive oil, and a range of infused wine vinegars, including one which contains wild oregano from the countryside around Estremos, where the family members pick themselves.

I shall also visit the Odyssea stand to have a look at some of the special Greek products. Their Iliada extra virgin olive oil is superb, and I always stock up on their olives whenever I am in Selfridges. They will also be launching "gigantes" beans and *barbouni*, a traditional Greek pasta from the northern mountains, as well as *kritharoi*, saffron and *trahana*. This is made from ground durum wheat, mixed with sheep's milk. When dried, the mixture is then crumbled or ground into rice-size pellets, not unlike large couscous. It is used in

# ASDA'S INTRODUCTION TO THE WONDERFUL WORLD OF WINE

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# It pays to get out of the kitchen



**Top chefs do not make money from restaurants, but from their TV shows, books and brand names,**  
says Robin Young

**T**hese days, chefs figure in Who's Who. Michel Roux, who cooks for the Queen at the Waterside Inn in Bray, Berkshire, is in there beside his former employers, the Rothschilds. Anton Mosimann, formerly of the Dorchester and now of the eponymous dining club in Belgravia, nudges in ahead of the Mosleys, and Raymond Blanc, of the Manoir aux Quat'Saisons, in Great Milton, Oxfordshire, has the entry following that of the president of Air France.

True, the national guide to the great and good has not yet admitted the enfant terrible of haute cuisine, March Pierre White, surely the hottest name in catering. Nor has it made room for three-star Michelin men such as Pierre Koffmann, of Tante Claire, and Nico Ladenis, of Chez Nico at 90 Park Lane, but it does accommodate Keith Floyd to three-star chef rather than three start. Inexplicably, Albert Roux appears only as an appendage to his younger brother, who is his co-author and television co-star.

Therein lies the point. It is their extra-curricular activities that bring these men fame and fortune. Leading chefs in Britain are now just as much involved in what the French call *le business* as their confrères on the Continent. Chefs no longer just cook hotels and restaurants. They lead the national taste in matters of gastronomy. They are authors, television stars, promoters, franchisers and even, at their peak, brand names.

It is their achievement, by virtue of the wider exposure they have won, to have dragged the British lunching and dining classes kicking and screaming into the 20th century just before it ends.

We have the authoritative word of the Good Food Guide that British catering is better than it has ever been. When the Guide was founded 45 years ago, yoghurt was unknown, olive oil was something you put in your ears to remove wax, and pepper was finely ground dust effective as sneezing powder and little else.

While Delia Smith, a phenomenally successful home cook, food writer and television populariser, but not making any claim to be professional chef or innovator, is still awakening slow learners to such things as cranberries, the competitive chefs at the forefront of the catering industry are hotfoot after every new ingredient, foreign or domestic, or cooking style that might give them a competitive edge.

Their successful finds are quickly imitated by every other restaurant that can turn them to advantage, and are then picked up by the

supermarket buyers, the Delia Smiths and the home cooks. Hence such suddenly ubiquitous phenomena as chargrilling, stirfries, ciabatta, pesto, rocket, balsamic vinegar, filo pastry, La Rame and Belle de Fontenay potatoes, coconut milk, lemon grass, miso and salsa.

Coming next to a restaurant and then a supermarket near you, perhaps, tuna carpaccio, truffle oil, *ventreche* bacon, smoked garlic, air-dried puffin, Scandinavian cloud and lingonberries, Alfonso mangoes from India, Vidalia onions from the United States, or even Ireland's fabulously floury and strangely overlooked Queens potatoes.

A quick look at those Who's Who entries shows partly how it works. Michel Roux, for example, lists six books co-authored with brother Albert, and the television series. He does not list, though, the legion of chefs the brothers have trained and sometimes installed in other establishments; nor does he list their contract catering, their fine food import-export business, French butchery, and airline consultancies.

Mosimann lists two television series, eight books and a large collection of gold medals, honours and awards, but does not refer to the outside catering company, the kitchen equipment, cookery and cutlery range, or the Mosimann-branded fine foods. Even the laid-back Floyd gets paid to put his name to loaves on shelves. You need not disbelieve the top men when they claim their restaurants do not pay.

In such a labour-intensive industry it really is possible to produce dishes that cost £35 in man hours, ingredients and overheads. Customers then complain if they appear on the menu at, say, £26.

Chefs work their hearts out, care passionately about what they are doing and test themselves to destruction to achieve their goals. But once they have made it into business the rewards can be pretty satisfying, too.

Those Who's Who entries show Mosimann's recreation as "collecting art". Blancy's three Rs are "reading, riding and rock", and Michel Roux goes in for "shooting and skiing". A wider trawl of the headlines reveals that Richard Neate, of Pied-à-Terre, could contemplate retirement at 29, that when not in their kitchens our chefs are more than likely to be at luxury homes in the south of France, and that one raw newcomer to the Michelin stars, even before publishing his book, was giving his hobby as "scuba diving in Cambodia".

It is hot work in the kitchen, but pretty cool on the outside. Safeway's



Mark Hix, whose philosophy is to keep his recipes simple, is a rising star in the superchef firmament

## Babies have good taste

**Michael Kallenbach on what turns a chef into a superchef**

A BUTTERNUT squash recipe dreamt up by Mark Hix to use in a risotto proved so popular with his two-year-old twin daughters that it is being marketed this month by a new Glasgow-based company. The Original Babyfood Co. for its winter range.

Mr Hix is executive chef at two of London's most fashionable restaurants, Le Caprice and The Ivy, and, at 33, is one of the rising stars in the superchef firmament.

His move into the baby-food market is a result of his habit of experimenting with new recipes at home and sometimes asking his daughters to taste them. His own enthusiasm for new tastes and unusual ingredients will ensure that he will be exploring the various stands at the festival next week.

"Tastes have changed so much in recent years. People are much more aware of ingredients and willing to try out new things," he says. "Coriander and lemon grass, for instance, are not a combination that would have been used in the past. Awareness now is largely due to the influence of major supermarket

kids and television. I personally like simple foods, especially those that use salads and herbs."

Mr Hix began cooking after rejecting metalwork in favour of a domestic science course at school and did his instructors proud with his first upside-down pineapple cake. He then opted for a two-year cookery course at Weymouth College where he found he had a knack for developing new skills and ideas.

His first job was at the Park Lane Hilton's staff canteen. He has worked at the Candlewick Room in the City which earned a red M in the Michelin Guide.

"My philosophy," he says, "is to keep it simple and affordable — unless you're splurging and opting for foie gras and truffles. Ideas develop from ideas. First I try

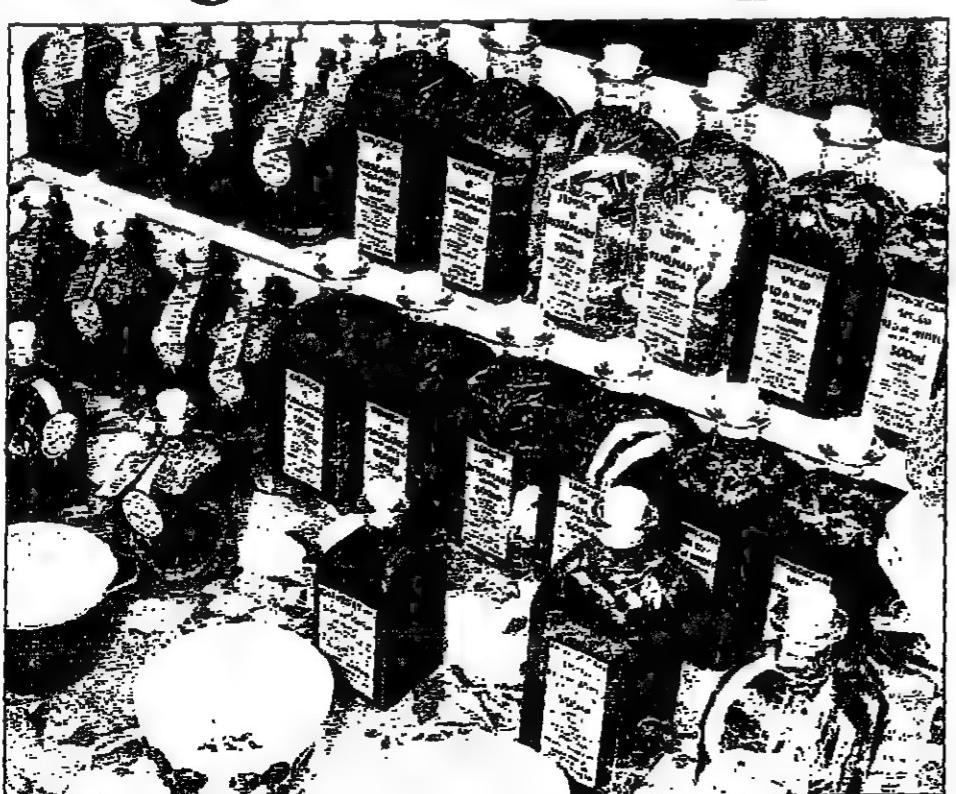
something out with colleagues and then in the restaurant, and eventually it takes off with the customers."

Des McDonald is the head chef at The Ivy, and Kevin Gratton is his opposite number at Le Caprice. Mr Hix meets both of them for a quick breakfast every morning to iron out problems, by which time ingredients will have been ordered and delivered. "We taste and test the food throughout the day, and make sure the staff knows what is available." Each week he and the other chefs meet the proprietors for a tasting session.

As a consultant, Mr Hix has taken his skills as far afield as the Middle East and the Caribbean, and last year he was involved in launching Caprice Events to cater for the individual needs of regular clients.

The company was formed after *Vanity Fair* asked the restaurant to cater a charity dinner for 350 at the Serpentine Gallery in Hyde Park. More recently, Mr Hix flew to Long Island, in New York, especially to cook for a regular customer who desired his particular expertise.

## delights of the specialists



Even the humble bottle of vinegar can come in many different and exotic flavours

thick soups and stews, and to stuff vegetables — an excellent addition to the store cupboard staples.

Danمار International is the stand to visit if you love all things Italian. Pasta, organic extra virgin olive oils, vinegars and roasted vegetables in oil are just some of the lines on show. But you will also find lemon-infused olive oil and pasta made from emmer wheat.

Closer to home, there is much to please the anglophile gourmet. Mead and flavoured cordials, such as elderflowers and ginger could not be more traditional. At the James White stand, you will find a range of flavoured apple

juices, such as apple and cinnamon and apple and blackberry, but I think their individual freshly pressed apple juices from Bramley, Cox and Russet are hard to beat. Not so much for drinking, but using as a cooking ingredient, I shall be nosing round a couple of drink stands: J Wray and Nephew for the Appleton Estate and King Offa Distillery for the Hereford Cider Brandy, Aperitif and Liqueurs. The latter will be very good in a custard to accompany an apple pie.

If you are looking for something to spice up your cooking, The Curry Sauce Company, Greenwich Herbs and Spices, Mrs Bassa's Indian Kitchen.

Samarkand Gourmet Spice Blends and Karimix should, between them, have some for you. On the last stand, you will find some unusual pickles and relishes with flavours of Malaysia, Indonesia and Sri Lanka, such as aubergine pickle, pineapple achar, and a Sri Lankan tamarind chutney.

For all this exotic and flavoursome food, a hunk of good bread would be just the thing. Until relatively recently, good bread was what you made at home. But a number of small independent bakers have been making a name for themselves, and their uncompromising standards. They are

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## Thirsty Brits have a nose for fine wine

Jane MacQuitty on the popularity of the mid-priced bottle of plonk

**L**ondon is still the wine capital of the world. Nobody does it better than the UK's wine buyers, merchants, auctioneers, commentators and, yes, even wine writers. Our long-standing tradition of not producing much wine of our own and our location — slap bang in the middle of the modern wine-producing map — has made us a formidable source of wine expertise.

More tempting to the world's wine producers is our underdeveloped wine consumption. True, our annual per capita consumption of wine has grown in the past 30 years from a paltry two litres to an impressive 16 litres. And it is still growing at a healthy rate, up by over 15 per cent between 1994 and 1995. Compared with other Europeans, however, we are abstemious. The French drink more than anyone else, knocking back about 5 litres annually, about half the quantity they drank in the 1960s. The Italians and Portuguese, Europe's other dedicated wine drinkers, although consuming less than ever, manage to down about 60 litres a head.

So the combination of saturation point reached on the Continent and our history of expertise in the wine world continues to ensure that the best bottles and top producers all consider the UK an obligatory stopover. In turn, this has encouraged our buyers to seek an increasingly wide range of wine.

Understandably, France continues to hog the largest share of the UK's wine shelf space — about a third. Italy is next with 15 per cent of the total UK wine market, in part because of the perennial popularity of sweet, fizzy lambrusco. Germany is only 1 per cent, but with the unlikely liebfraumilch and tafelwein hook the big Teutonic lines — sadly.

Much more encouraging news is the knowledge that Australian wine sales here now make up 10 per cent of the total and other New World wine producers such as South Africa are moving from nowhere towards 6 per cent, California and the rest of America are at 4 per cent, and Chile, another newcomer, achieves 3 per cent. Clearly, the UK's long-established wine suppliers, such as France

and Germany, have lost out heavily to this increasingly strong New World competition, whose easy, upfront fruity wines with straightforward single-grape variety labels have wide appeal. And in case Old World producers want to persist in their ostrich-like ways, they should note that South Africa and Chile both experienced 100 per cent sales increases here last year.

Leading this new era of wine are the supermarkets, which between them account for 80 per cent of all wine bought in the UK. A further 9 per cent is split between wine warehouses, merchants and wine clubs. This puts the independent wine merchant's share at about 5 per cent. But though I sympathise with their dwindling trade and feel sorry that most wine sold in this country is priced at £3.99 and below, there is not much point in whining, as some have, at prices such as £2.99, £3.99 and £4.99, considering the lack of money any of us have left in the kitty each week to spend on wine.

Wine merchants and writers regularly spread the word that once fixed costs for the £2.99 bottle, such as duty, shipping and bottling charges are considered, only a few pence is actually spent on the wine within. So you get one whole extra pound's worth of wine if you trade up to a £3.99 bottle and two pounds' worth if you trade up to a £4.99 bottle.

The message is beginning to filter through to the drinker: the £4 and £5 sector of the market is the fastest-growing by far, up by 12 per cent last year. But if you intend to drink wine every day, the £2.99 bottle still has life in it. It is, coincidentally, infinitely more difficult to find wines under £3 that are drinkable than say under £5, so look out for the first issue of my *Top 100 Wines of Winter* feature out next month.

Supermarkets are gradually starting to give their wine customers some of the perks that previously they would have found only at the better sort of wine merchant. Many are now offering free tastings for their customers and providing advanced wine training schemes for their staff.

My hunch is that it's onwards and upwards for the UK's supermarket wines.

# Taste wines with the experts

**Michael Kallenbach**  
on the widening appeal of the grape

**N**ovice drinkers as well as wine connoisseurs will be able to indulge in wine-tasting rituals at the festival and there will be plenty of opportunities to exchange opinions and ideas and discover bargains.

There will be 48 advanced tutored tastings on specialised themes such as "entertaining with bordeaux" and "Californian wine styles". And in line with the current popularity of expertly matching foods with wines, there will be a room featuring seminars such as pairing chardonnay with smoked foods and Spanish seafood with sherry.

Philip MacGregor, who will hold several wine tastings during this year's festival, says that in recent years the snobbishness has gone, and that fine wine is as likely to be available in a supermarket as it is in a specialised wine store.

Mr MacGregor has been tasting and testing wines for 12 years and will be among the presenters at "Swirl, Sniff and Slurp" arranged by the Association of Wine Educators. The association will be organising as many as 40 tastings during next week's show.

One session will focus on the technique of tasting, another will examine essential differences between wines of the New World and the Old World, and a third will explore forgotten grape varieties.

In the art of slurping, Mr MacGregor will painstakingly explain the mysterious procedures and language of tasting and the reasons behind them.

"Once people get to like wine, they want to know more about it," he says.

Wine tasters like Mr MacGregor are insistent that they should not become involved in selling wines. "We sell education, not the product. If the customer likes it, they must get it themselves, otherwise we can't be objective."



The snobbishness once attached to wine drinking has gone, and fine wine is as likely to be found in the supermarket as the specialist retailer

volved in selling wines. "We self-education, not the product. If the customer likes it, they must get it themselves, otherwise we can't be objective."

For those who are interested in gaining diplomas and certificates, Gareth Lawrence, course manager at the Wine and Spirit Education Trust, is the man to talk to. Coming from a family who were involved in the wine trade, Mr Lawrence teaches a wide range of courses, from those for pure beginners to others for the more advanced, involv-

ing a diploma course over two years which costs £550.

During the festival, the Trust will explain details of masterclass tasting, and have on hand a wide variety of chardonnay wines from countries such as Hungary and France.

In addition, "Wine and Wood" will show how the ageing of wine in various types of cask can affect the final flavour.

Mr Lawrence points out that the trust, which has been in existence for 25 years, is com-

mitted to providing high quality wine education, not only for the trade, but increasingly for the consumer.

**W**ine experts point to the increase in sales over recent years, and attribute much of the success to New World wines, their easy-to-read and pronounce labels, coupled with major promotion campaigns by leading supermarkets.

Non-French speakers, for instance, need not feel embarrassed if they do not know how to pronounce Chateau Neuf du Pape. Instead they can opt for a Glen Ellen from California, or a Shiraz from Australia.

Penny Thair, Asda's wine marketing manager who will represent her company next week at Olympia 2, attributes the increase in wine sales to more affordable prices. "Beer and wine are not mutually exclusive," she points out.

She adds: "In the past women rarely ventured into liquor stores, and if they did, they were made to feel rather uncomfortable. But women are no longer intimidated since in supermarkets there are always a good range of wines available."

Historically, older men have always taken to wine and younger women, she says, but all that is changing now. "These days interest is divided 50-50 along gender lines."

Mr MacGregor, who will be explaining grape varieties during his tastings, agrees that wine courses today attract both sexes and age is never a barrier.

## How to cope with a joyous bounty

Look around the stalls before you start your eating and drinking

**F**or anyone with a passion for food and wine, a day spent eating and drinking sounds like heaven. However, if you've never been to a food festival, it is as well to be aware of the pitfalls.

The first problem is that the stands are not arranged in any logical order. Well, not as far as your stomach is concerned. You can — and probably will — find yourself sampling Christmas cake, followed by smoked salmon, chocolate and sushi. The only thing to do if you want to be sure to avoid what the French call a *crise de foi* (upset tum) is to have a good look around first. Make a mental note of what you want to taste then plan a reasonable gastronomic running order.

However, the discomfort of overeating pales into insignificance against the more drastic effect of consuming too much alcohol. When you have poured a glass of perfectly nice wine, the natural reaction is to take a sip, think "Mmm... that's nice" and polish off the glass. If you do that half a dozen times (depending on your level of tolerance) you feel pleasantly lightheaded. Do it 12 times and you'll find yourself having to clutch on to your fellow passengers for support on the way home on the Tube.

What you need to do is what the professionals do at a wine tasting. Spit it out. It might sound quite disgusting, but it's the only way. Most stands will have a spittoon handy (even if it is only a cardboard box lined with a bin bag) and plenty of other people will be doing it, too.

You may wonder how you can actually taste wine if you spit it out: it's a question of a little technique and a lot of practice. Take a sip of wine, suck air between your teeth in short bursts while holding it in your mouth (it is a bit noisy but don't worry) then take aim and spit. (As a novice spitter it is advisable not to wear light-coloured clothing or your best suede boots.)

If you cannot bring yourself to spit, you have no alternative but to be selective. Again, it is worth having a plan of action. Focus on one particular type of wine you might want to buy, such as a good red for Christmas or an inexpensive sparkling for a party, and ask each stand to recommend a suitable product. Or take a wine producing area you don't know much about — such as Chile or South Africa — and concentrate on their wines. It is worth taking a notebook along and recording your impressions as there is a fair chance you will not be able to remember all that you have tasted.

Making sure you are in peak form to tackle a day as indulgent as this one. Do not go on an empty stomach or on top of a hefty fry-up, unless that is what you eat every morning. Try to drink plenty of water during the course of the day.

**W**hat if you ignore all this good advice and overdo it? How do you deal with the hangover? Personally, I'm not a member of the Fernet Branca school of hangover cures — which is to swallow something so repellant it shocks the system into submission.

The answer is simply to drink as much water as you can before you go to bed and start the next day with a huge glass of freshly squeezed orange juice and couple of aspirin. Then you'll be ready to face the world.

**FIONA BECKETT**

'On the whole, any food goes with any wine if conversation is buzzing'

## Navigate the dinner-party minefield



CLEMENT FREUD

to the wine and call it a Bellini. Goose liver, with or without truffles is enhanced by glasses of very cold dessert wine, Chateau d'Yquem if money is no object, but there are excellent first growth barbares: Clemens, Rieussec, Suduiraut and Couteau cost far less and are very fine. Store the glasses in the deep freeze.

There are combinations of food and drink which are strictly for the home braised ox tail which deserves strong ale to quaff rather than sipping Irish stew with nothing as right as a nice hot cup of strong Indian tea. You cannot have that in restaurants, not even with the mark-up on tea at 1,000 per cent. When it comes to profit, restaurants need high volume and even a big gain on a 10p commodity is only just enough to pay for the one in 24 teaspoons nicked by customers, the one in 16

cups or saucers or both broken by waiters, not for getting the crooked cashier.

I believe that Beluga caviar is better accompanied by overproof lemon vodka; and I advise home consumption because it is difficult to leave restaurants after a few glasses of super-alcoholic nectar.

And I believe that it is pointless giving people better fare than they can appreciate. There are a huge number of men and women who truly don't care about food and drink (I think I have had most of them to dinner in a journalistic capacity). To them, it is the thought that counts: the label or the shape of the bottle is more important than the contents.

Give them champagne, champagne goes with just about any food and if it's a bottle, about as cheap as decent champagne gets, is too

## Go to school in the kitchen

**Elaine Hallgarten**  
looks at the options  
for improving  
culinary skills

taught by Italians — her chef is, she states, a genius — the youngest Michelin three-star chef in Italy. (0181-205 0112).

On the other hand, French Country Kitchen Holidays (0171-924 7982), based in the Lot et Garonne, are taught by a collection of well-known British chefs. Tuition is interspersed with visits to the market and much eating and drinking.

Ireland is a favourite holiday destination, with good food too. Many of the country's best chefs have been inspired by Myrtle and Darina Allen at Ballymaloe, Ballymaloe Cookery School (Shanagarry, Co Cork, Ireland (00 353 21 646785) is ideal for a short course and the opportunity to enjoy the special charm of County Cork.

London's cookery schools — Cordon Bleu at 114 Marylebone Lane, W1M 6HH (0171-935 3503) and Leith's School of Food and Wine at 21 St Albans's Grove, WB5BP are among the line-up.

(0171-229 0177) — are geared to serious professional students but also run shorter courses for the amateur. Thierry Dumoulin, technical director of the Cordon Bleu, believes that after only one lesson you should be able to cook a wonderful meal at home. Leith's director, C J Jackson, thinks cooks can gain confidence as well as ideas and recipes.

Her views are echoed by Linda Collister, author of the recently published *The Baking Book*, whose career started with a Cordon Bleu course.

Busy working people who entertain single-handed are targeted in Lyn Hall's Bachelor Cooks course. She has teamed up with kitchen designers Bulthaup to run a series of classes. Participants cook and eat a complete menu, developing invaluable cooking skills (0171-584 6841).

Entertaining Ideas (01050-387 387) are just that — cookery demonstrations in a kitchen in London's Portobello Road. The combination of plenty of food and wine and the chance to learn the secrets of some of London's greatest chefs is proving to be a huge success. Such luminaries as Anton Edelmann of The Savoy, Matthew Harris of Bibendum and Jean Christophe Novelli are among the line-up.

## A rare chance to sample the world's best

From high-street regulars to niche wines, all you need is a glass

**THE** International Festival offers wine enthusiasts a rare opportunity to sample hundreds of different wines. Most of the wines at the show are easily available from supermarkets or high-street chains (and you can buy your discoveries on the spot) but some are produced in small quantities, or are "niche" wines.

Once you have gained entry to the show, all you need to do is buy a glass. You can then tour the vast fair, tasting anything you fancy. First stop for the adventurous is the English Wine Producers stand (G70). Home-grown wines, as opposed to exotica flown in from foreign parts, might seem laughable in our cold, damp climate, but, prejudice apart, you could find yourself surprised by their quality.

If you suspect your taste lies in a particular direction, the generic that represent individual countries are worth checking. The New Zealand Wine Guild (G26) will be showing crisp sauvignon blancs from the boutique wineries of Vavasour and Dashwood, and traditionalists can sample the white wines offered by the German Wine Information Service (G50).

The Greek Wine Bureau (G51) will show wines from the islands of Cephalonia and Samos, made from native Greek grapes, and the Portuguese stand (ICEP-Portuguese Trade & Tourism Office, F44) is planning a line-up of wines from new areas such as Beiras, north of Lisbon, and Bairrada in central Portugal.

The Wine Institute of Call-



Award-winning cheese displays from previous festivals

## British cheeses top the taste test\*

**Juliet J. Harbutt** on the successful revival of the cheesemaker's craft

**A**t this year's British Cheese Awards, sponsored by Tesco, there were 469 entries spread over 53 different classes. Eighty-seven were Cheddars, 63 goat and 14 unpasteurised — they ranged from the sublime to the occasionally truly ridiculous, unless you like the idea of Cheddar with chocolate chip.

Rather as it is always a mistake to experiment with food when you have guests you want to impress, so make sure the wine you serve is tried and more or less trusted. Read wine writers, buy what they recommend and if you purchase, accept that this is a writer whose tastes you endorse and buy other suggestions he or she publishes. (If you disapprove of his or her selections, read another columnist.) On the whole, any wine goes with any food, except obviously if the conversation is buzzing, but avoid obvious pitfalls: wine at the wrong temperature, red wine with shellfish, acidic salads when you are drinking soft smooth red wines.

Watercress does funny things to your palate — makes it very hard to appreciate good wine — does a plate of watercress salad. So look on the bright side, if the wine you have bought is iffy, bring on watercress.

When the French want a dinner party to end, along comes a tray of glasses containing grapefruit juice, shorthand for time to go home. As this signal is not internationally understood, we tend to lower the quality of what people are drinking and just hope they take the hint.

The judges select only the best, which are given the right to carry the symbol of excellence, a gold, silver or bronze medal, rather than simply choosing first, second or third — an impossible task if all the cheeses are wonderful or worse if they are not.

British cheese has come a long way in the last ten years and is as good as anything you will find in Europe. At a recent tasting, I threw down the gourmet gauntlet to some chefs, who will remain nameless, to name the country of origin of 25 artisan cheeses.

Shoulder-shrugging and superior laughter was followed by sniffing, prodding and furious munching as the cheeses proved more challenging than expected.

The tiny goat cheese and the wickedly creamy ones with pungent aromas were assumed to be French. Hard cheese with unusual tastes were mostly picked as goat or ewe's milk cheese from Spain. Britain was given credit for the wonderful, hard crumbly cheese.

To discover how much you really know about British cheese come to the British Cheese Awards Cheese Challenge at the festival and taste of the medal winners from this year's awards, including the Supreme Champion. You will not be disappointed.

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## GOLF

# Montgomerie relishes role of Wentworth straight man

By JOHN HOPKINS, GOLF CORRESPONDENT

**THERE** is a feeling of coming home when the Toyota World Match Play Championship begins at Wentworth in October. January may be spent in Singapore, February in Australia, March in Morocco and April in August, but, by the tenth month of the year, when the deciduous trees are shedding their leaves and there are wisps of autumn fog in the morning air, it is time to be at Wentworth to watch the 12-man field in this admirable competition address the challenges of the West Course.

It is not just that a golf club in a place named Virginia Water in Surrey is about as English as could

be. There is a feeling of coming home when the Toyota World Match Play Championship begins at Wentworth in October. January may be spent in Singapore, February in Australia, March in Morocco and April in August, but, by the tenth month of the year, when the deciduous trees are shedding their leaves and there are wisps of autumn fog in the morning air, it is time to be at Wentworth to watch the 12-man field in this admirable competition address the challenges of the West Course.

Watch out for Stricker. At first glance, he may appear to be just another of those young American players who come along regularly and then never make that one extra stride to the summit. There are signs that Stricker may be an exception. Tom Watson has talked highly of him, he has twice been victorious and won more than £1 million in the United States this year, and, though he lost three of his five matches in the Presidents Cup, he won all five at St Andrews.

He does it with the help of his wife,

Nicki, who has caddied for him for seven years, and a strong all-round game that is well suited to Wentworth. "I do most of the things fairly well," Stricker said. "I drive it a long way, I am in the top ten in driving statistics on the US Tour and third in putting, and I like to compete."

Montgomerie was partnered with Stricker in a tournament the week after the Masters this year. "He is very straight and very long and obviously, after his two victories in the US, he is full of confidence," Montgomerie said.

It is Stricker's first appearance in this event and, on Monday, he went into London to do some sightseeing with O'Meara and some friends. They went to look at Buckingham Palace and O'Meara bought an Orlando Magic basketball cap. Stricker said that he thought that this was something O'Meara could have bought back home.

Stricker is something of a dark horse. It may be a bit much to think that he can win from one of the strongest fields in recent years, but he has the game to spoil this very British occasion. What happened to him on Tuesday afternoon may add a bit of zip to his play today. That was when he and Nicki played the nine-hole course. Stricker was one over par, Nicki level par.

be, or that the course amply separates the chokers from the strokers, as Charles Price, the American golf writer, said all great courses should. It is these and more, including the fact that the PGA European Tour has its headquarters near the clubhouse, that Bernard Gallacher, the captain of the Europe Ryder Cup team last year, is the club professional and that the place reeks of golf history.

"We play here more than any other course and so, yes, there is a sense of homecoming," Colin Montgomerie said on the eve of an event he likes because he can stay at home while competing in it. "I play four rounds in the PGA and up to nine rounds here and it does favour me because I tend to hit the ball straight off the tee, but it is not my home course. That will always be Troon."

This year the European contingent totals two. Montgomerie and Ian Woosnam will play each other in the first round today. "That's a bit silly," Woosnam said. "I suppose it's good for TV in that it guarantees one person through to Friday, but I don't know. I am not sure about that."

On the other hand, there are six Americans, three fresh from winning

titles in America and three from

Europe, who will be playing in the first round.

## SNOOKER

## Parrott uses new cue to deadly effect

JOHN PARROTT, whose cue remains lost in the post, demonstrated that he has swiftly become accustomed to its replacement by beating Joe Johnson 5-4 in a high quality first-round match at the Grand Prix in Bournemouth yesterday (Phil Yates writes).

Despite having employed the substitute model for only three weeks, Parrott compiled breaks of 103, 60 and, under pressure in the deciding frame, 62. The precarious margin of victory was more a product of Johnson's stubbornness than Parrott inadequacies.

Parrott, the 1991 world and United Kingdom champion and the tournament's No 4 seed, is relieved that the acclimatisation period with his new cue has been brief. "It hits the ball solidly and when I miss it is my fault," he said.

Tony Drago defeated Andrew Cairns of Blackpool 5-1. Drago constructed a 130 total clearance in the opening frame and was never seriously challenged.

## BALLROOM DANCING

## RUGBY UNION

## WELSH LEAGUE

## LEEDS MATCH

## BRU UNDER-21 INTER-DISTRICT CHAMPIONSHIP

## UNDER-21 COUNTY CHAMPIONSHIP

## SCHOOLS MATCHES

## SNOOKER

## FENCING

## ICE HOCKEY

## NATIONAL LEAGUE (NHL)

## MOTOR RALLYING

## TABLE TENNIS

## TENNIS

## BT GLOBAL CHALLENGE LATEST POSITIONS

## LITTLEWOODS

## POOLS DIVIDENDS

## OSTRAVICE

## PAPASPORT

## PATERSON JAYA

## PATERSON JAY



# Far better to play a blinder than the fool

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Beware the sporting gesture. The victory salute, the shaken fist, the V-sign, the dramatic protest, the heavy-handed joke — they can all go very wrong.

Just ask Mark Bosnich. He was hired by Aston Villa as a goalkeeper, not a comedian, and right now he probably wishes that he had stuck to the script; but like so many other sportsmen these days, he has fallen into the trap of confusing his role in what is now a highly-paid branch of the entertainment industry.

At White Hart Lane, on Saturday, in response to taunting by the Tottenham Hotspur supporters, Bosnich gave a mock Nazi salute with one gloved finger stuffed beneath his nose in mimicry of the Hitler moustache.

Despite his protestations that it was just a Basil Fawlty-type joke, and not a calculated insult to Tottenham's Jewish support, Bosnich finds himself in deep trouble. He faces a police inquiry and the Football Association has charged him with misconduct. According to his agent (himself Jewish), Bosnich has even received death threats from Israel.

The unfortunate Bosnich, an Australian of Croatian stock, is guilty of

being an idiot not to realise the painful implications of his joke — and, however quick he was to apologise and explain, he will find that the incident will haunt him throughout his career.

He is by no means the first sportsman to find that a spur-of-the-moment gesture has threatened dire punishment. Harvey Smith, the showjumper, famously found himself before the stewards of the British Showjumping Association in 1971 charged with making an offensive gesture with two fingers.

Smith and his barrister turned up with a case stuffed full of photons of Winston Churchill giving his version of the victory sign — and he was cleared of misconduct much to the delight of his followers. Smith is just one example in a catalogue of sport's bad boys disciplined for aggressive gestures to the crowd.

In cricket, David Gower was captured on camera flicking a V-sign at jeering supporters at Old Trafford. In swimming, Tony Jarvis, Great Britain's one-time Olympic captain, found himself dropped from the national team after angry gestures to the crowds. In tennis, Buster Mottram, of Britain, upset everyone

## 'Referees rarely recognise a joke'

by raising two defiant fingers to a defeated Rhodesian.

Despite the best efforts of officials, such villainous behaviour can quickly become part of a player's appeal — and thus a conscious element in his performance. Who can pretend that when they watched a John McEnroe or a Vinnie Jones just to admire the finer points of their play?

Other crowd-pleasers are more clown than villain. Spectators expect to be entertained and players are encouraged to fool around as if they are being auditioned for *Question of Sport* or *They Think It's All Over*. There is none greater at playing the fool than Paul Gascoigne.

In one game last season, Gascoigne was even booked for booking the referee. When a yellow card dropped from the referee's pocket in a



game between Rangers and Hibernian at Ibrox Stadium, Gascoigne picked it up and waved it at the official. The stands rocked with laughter, but the referee promptly booked him for the gesture.

Gascoigne got himself into more trouble when he celebrated his first goal for Rangers by miming playing a flute — a gesture calculated to endear him to the traditionally Protestant supporters of Rangers that enraged the Catholic supporters of Celtic, their greatest rivals.

Referees do not often recognise a joke. When Ruben Oliveira, of Uruguay, chose to show his appreciation of an opponent who had missed a certain goal by giving him a kiss, he was sent off while the crowd were still laughing.

The occasions when gestures are meant to taken seriously are rare. One such was in 1968, at the Olympic Games in Mexico City, when Tommie Smith and John Carlos, the black American sprinters, gave gloved "Black Power" salutes on the rostrum after the 200 metres. Yet there was a time when the Nazi salute was all too real an issue in sport. In 1936, at the Olympic Games in Berlin, teams had to decide whether

they should pay tribute to Hitler by giving him the salute at the opening ceremony. The French march-past raised a deafening and appreciative cheer from the German crowd as all 250 in the team gave Hitler the raised-arm salute.

The British caused angry muttering in the stands by settling for a begrudging "eyes right", with no hand signals. The Americans gestured their disapproval by falling back on a tradition that they had established in 1908 and refusing to dip the Stars and Stripes "to any earthly king".

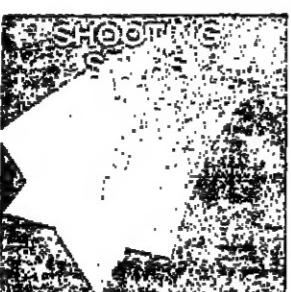
However, the most effective gesture of all in those Games came from Jesse Owens, the black sprinter and superstar of their team. To the dismay of the Führer, he won four gold medals.

It was a gesture more potent than any clenched fist or taunting V-sign, a demonstration of athletic might and sporting entitlement that no clowning could hope to match. Perhaps Bosnich and his fellow clowns should remember that. Jokes and gimmicks are all very well, but the display of effortless superiority in sport is the greatest gesture of all.

JOHN BRYANT

David Powell meets a former Olympic finalist who is on the dole

# Adam determined to win toughest race of his life



Regis to settle for the silver medal.

A month later, Linford Christie suffered his first indoor defeat by a Briton for two years when Adam won the 200 metres at RAF Cosford in a match against East Germany. A month after that, Adam, then 22, a Belgrave Harrier, won over the indoor lap for Great Britain against Russia and the United States. In second place: Michael Johnson. Not the Johnson we know now, but even then, a 20.07sec 200 metres runner outdoors.

By 1992, Adam was a Barcelona Olympic finalist on four-figure appearance fees and wealthy enough to run a home, a car and to finance six months' training in California. He went there with Regis and Tony Jarrett, who would

go on to take world champion silver medals in Stuttgart the next summer. Adam watched that meeting on television, his own career dispatched to the injury channel. "On the track you live in a wonderland," Adam said. Injuries to both Achilles tendons, a rupture to the right bursitis to the left, took him to the other side of the looking-glass.

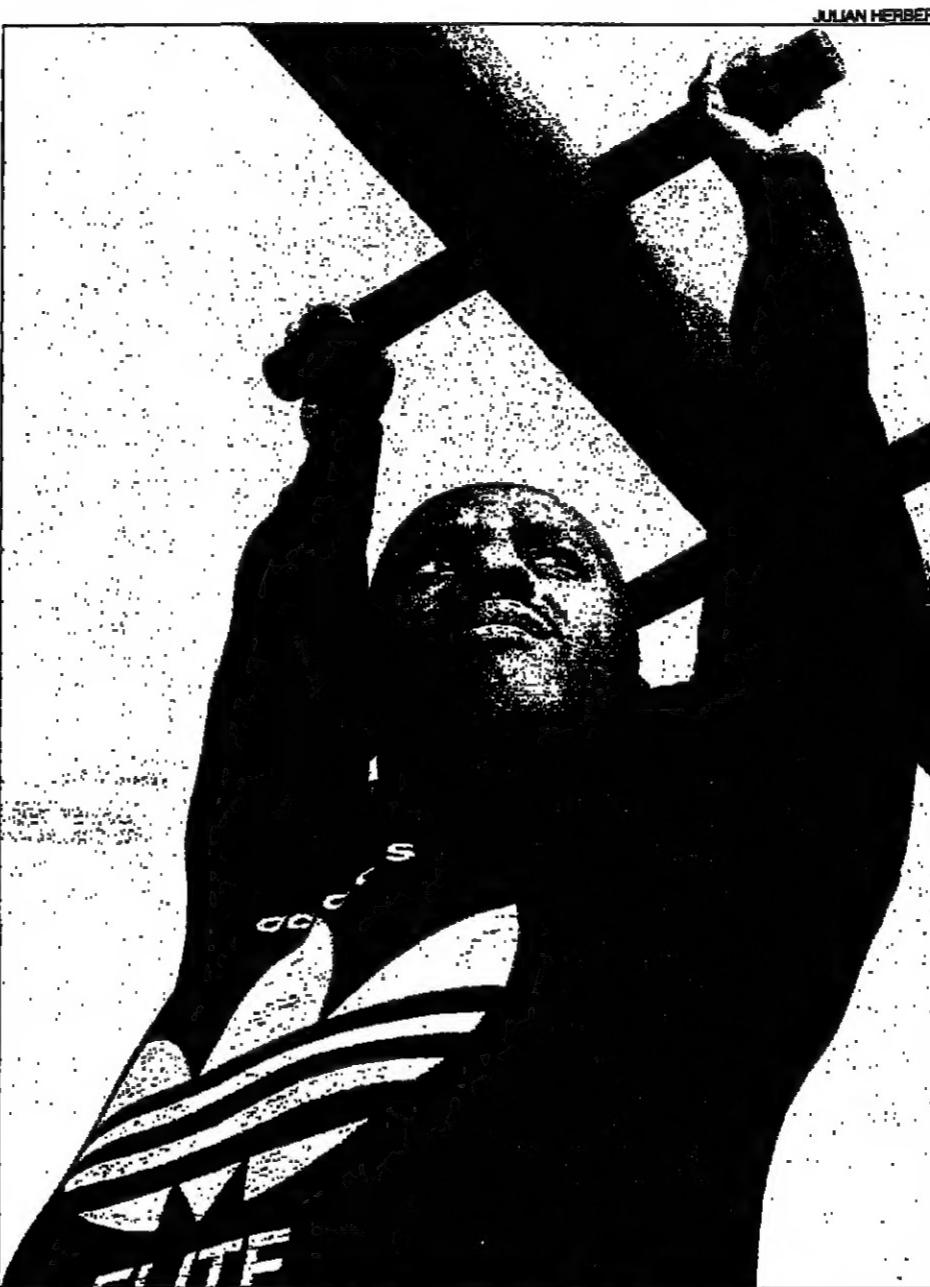
By the time he found appropriate treatment — it was not until October last year that he underwent a second operation — Adam had missed the best part of three years. "When I was doing it [training], I had people ringing up, saying, 'Come here, come there,'" Adam said. "As soon as you hit rock bottom, the phone does not ring anymore. People do not want to know you. You become a nobody."

He has lost all his sponsorship deals and may soon have to sell his car. "I have been suffering all the way along, no money coming in, just the dole cheque," he said. "My auntie helps me out with food, and there have been a few friends who have supported me financially. I thought I had a lot of friends in track and field, but there have been only a few who have kept in touch."

They may return if Adam proves as fit as he says he is and if he can keep clear of injuries. He is training, he said, six times a week for five or six hours. "I have done a year of background work and I am fitter now than I have ever been," he said. "If I do not get injured, you are going to see something awesome. I am sure I can run 20.5sec indoors this winter."

Outdoors, Adam has designs not just on making the Great Britain team for the world championships in Athens, but reaching the final. "I am going to run extremely fast, faster than I have in my life," he said.

There is no self-delusion by Adam that he might still be ahead of Johnson today had he been more fortunate, though



Adam claims to be fitter than ever and is ready to resume his sprinting career

Adam promised much not only at 200 metres, but also at 100 metres. In the Commonwealth Games, he was out-dipped by Bruny Surin, who went on to finish runner-up to Donovan Bailey in the world championships last year. In Auckland, Surin ran 10.12sec, Adam 10.14sec. John Isaacs, then Adam's coach, said that he would be the first Briton to follow Christie under ten seconds. We are still waiting for him, or anybody else.

There is no self-delusion by Adam that he might still be ahead of Johnson today had he been more fortunate, though

he claims that he would have won more medals. "John [Regis] came back from California in 1993 and ran 19.9sec and I would have gone under 20 seconds as well," Adam said. "I could have been up there with them, most definitely. Could have, would have, but it did not happen."

One reason Adam, now 28, gives for his optimism is that he can set new personal bests is that his present ones were achieved when he smoked, drank and partied. "I was smoking 30-40 cigarettes a day, 60 if I really got bored," he said. It may seem impossi-

ble, but he insists that it is true. A more disciplined lifestyle would lead, inevitably, to improvement.

"If I am successful again, I will have outside interests to keep me stimulated," he said. "In those days I could drink, I could smoke, I could run fast. I have not got the money to do those things now. I do not go out. I head to the track. I come home."

Has a promising career been stubbed out? Or will Marcus Adam light up once more and leave the opposition trailing in his smoke? The next 12 months should tell.

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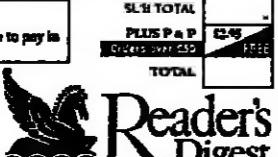
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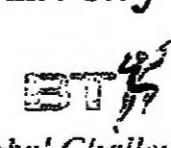
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## SAILING

### Capstick celebrates a special delivery



Globe! Challenge

BT

BT Global chart, page 48

TODAY'S FIXTURES

## FOOTBALL

European Cup: Wimera Cup  
Second round, first leg

FC St. John's Liverpool (7.0)

Uefa Under-18 championship

Qualifying round

Scotland v Wales

(at Roda Park Stadium, Holland, 2.30)

PONTINS CENTRAL LEAGUE: First division: West Bromwich v Leicester (7.0)

SPORTSMAN Grand Prix (in Bournemouth)

SPRINGFIELD: Northern League: Ipswich v Steven (7.30)

TELEVISION: Texaco women's challenger tournament (in Cardiff).

OTHER SPORT

GOLF: Toyota World Matchplay Championship (at Wentworth)

ICE HOCKEY: Superleague: Ayk v Manchester (6.30), Bangor v Newcastle (7.45)

NETBALL: Grand Prix (in Bournemouth)

SWIMMING: National Senior Championships (in Stevenage)

WATER POLO: European Cup: Neptun v Mid-Hants (7.30)

WATER

# A good night on BBC2, but don't quote me

**A**wful time for anyone with a gift of quotation last night, because the first instalment of *Testament: the Bible in Animation* (BBC2) kept coming up with fabulous, deathless lines which somehow we'd never heard before. "Hail back the daylight," cries Pharaoh in anguish, carrying his dead son in his arms; his small figure seen from above, as a small dot. "Everything I love," he moans, in close-up. "Why can I keep nothing? I had a friend among the Hebrews once." Meanwhile Moses stands on a cliff above the Red Sea, his white hair flowing, staff in hand, commanding the waves. And the temptation to comment in a big deep voice "Blow winds and crack your cheeks" is almost overwhelming.

I enjoyed *Testament* so much I watched it twice. Such grandeur you don't expect at 7pm. The vocal performances of Simon Callow and Martin Jarvis as Pharaoh and

Moses were splendid, and Nigel Ford's script not only added thoughtful themes (such as an invented childhood friendship between Moses and his oppressor), but spared us the plague of boils, which was a relief. Only the animation style (by Gary Hurst) was hard to get used to. Long, angular people never went anywhere without long, angular shadows. Their faces split straight down the middle between light and dark, and they all had chins that jutted forward, like Desperate Dan. Pharaoh's sidekick had a jacked-hind (literally) but everyone was too polite to mention it.

Personally, I was never too happy about the *Animated Shakespeare* project — the bare bones of the story being generally the least satisfying aspect of a Shakespeare play. But bits of the Bible are fair game, especially as the English-speaking world has long stopped making biblical epics, and all the

theatrical sandal-makers, camel-handlers, and burning-bush specialists have gone tragically belly-up. Last night's 30-minute *Moses* is probably the first such drama since Burt Lancaster starred in *Moses the Lawgiver*, all of 20 years ago. Last year I met an actor who was just heading for North Africa to play Samson's Dad in a new film, and it sounded wildly improbable, like an exercise in time travel.

**S**till on BBC2 (but changing the subject) one of the incidental delights of *Twin Fat Ladies* is that the innumerable cooks are like tire-sore parents in a play by Peter Nichols — they can never let a trigger-word pass without supplying the appropriate adage or quote.

"Wake up Jennifer," you can imagine Clarissa Dickson Wright saying to her companion. "Right oh. Christians awake, salute the

## REVIEW

Lynne Truss



happy morn," replies her chum, cheerfully. If they are having trouble with a map, they are poor little lambs that have lost their way. When they stand on the deck of a fishing boat, they are obliged to say "Captain, art thou sleeping down below?" Jennifer wipes her fingers and declares that all the perfumes of Arabia will not sweeten those little hands. "It looks rather like a Union Jack," says

Jennifer, indicating a meatloaf with criss-crossed bacon on its back. "Rue, Britannia," sings Clarissa, without hesitation.

*Twin Fat Ladies* is terrific telly, partly because the food is as big and forthright as the presenters. Eating low-fat rice pudding from a tin while Jennifer Paterson "squished" lamb's kidneys into a big bowl full of raw organic mince, I suddenly saw myself through her eyes, and felt ashamed of such a weedy diet. "Out, vile jelly!" I said therefore, and tipped it in the bin. Last week Jennifer waved a big spoon at the camera and told us to stop thinking of yoghurt as a substitute for cream: "Yoghurt is very good for your breakfast, or if you have a poorummy, or if you're a vegetarian or something. But for cream, there is... Nothing. Better. Than Cream."

Some of the stooging is a bit too silly, but the cooking is wonderful and I like the way they "slosh it in"

and "muck it about a bit" — which Delia Smith has never been known to do. And meanwhile there's all that press-button quoting to enjoy. "Gone, gone, and never called me mother" hasn't come up yet, so watch out.

**B**eck (BBC1) is still on the runway as a drama series, even after three episodes. It just can't get airborne. Perhaps the problem is that Beck is too independent and cheerful: when her men squabble over her, she just thinks they are stupid, and gets a bag of chips. Last night's story concerned a man intent on suicide. Beck tracked him to the Lake District, but didn't have anything to tell him to change his mind. In fact she found him just as he had swallowed a lethal dose of pills, and was wading into a lake.

Too late, was it? Oh yes. Or as Jennifer and Clarissa would perhaps have said: "Too late, too late, shall be the cry. Arnold the ice-cream man's gone by."

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**GOLF 48**  
World's best  
prepare for  
final fling

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Fowler ready for European recall

## Liverpool take no risks with Swiss on a roll

FROM PETER BALL IN SION

THERE was a time when a visit to Switzerland in European competition was regarded by English football teams as a bye into the next round, if not a holiday. Liverpool, however, based high in the Alps in preparation for the European Cup Winners' Cup, second-round, first-leg match against FC Sion tonight, have been taking nothing for granted.

Sitting up a mountain in Crans-Montana, looking over the Rhone Valley to the Matterhorn and Mont Blanc, football hardly seems a likely local pursuit, but, in October, with rain rather than snow falling heavily down in the valley in Sion, football is the sport of the moment and the local team is to be taken seriously.

### Players prepare to take strike action

A STRIKE by players in the three divisions of the Nationwide League appears to be imminent (Russell Kempson writes). The result of a ballot organised by the Professional Footballers' Association is due to be announced in two days' time and it is believed that the players have voted overwhelmingly in favour of a strike.

If they have, it would affect, at least initially, all televised matches in the Nationwide League. Grimsby Town's home match with Sheffield

Indeed, Sion are confident and have enlisted the services of their man on Merseyside — Marc Hottiger, the Everton full back, their former player, — who has provided his former club with a breakdown on Liverpool.

"Marc has been very helpful," Dariel Matton, the Sion general manager, said. "We know all about them and their reputation, but we won't be overawed."

With Switzerland holding England at Wembley to a 1-1 draw during the European championship in the summer and Grasshoppers' success in Europe illustrates their quality. "We don't know much about Sion, but what we heard about their performances against Grasshoppers and Neuchâtel suggests we have got to be careful," Barnes said.

After a stuttering start, Liverpool have improved as the season has progressed, even allowing for the defeat by Manchester United on Saturday. Inside the camp, at least, there was satisfaction in their performance at the weekend, if not in their finishing.

That would be improved if Robbie Fowler returns from his ankle injury. Provided that he does not feel any reaction from training yesterday, he is expected to be fit and the decision whether to recall him represents Evans's main problem. If he does so, it will presumably be at the expense of Stan Collymore.

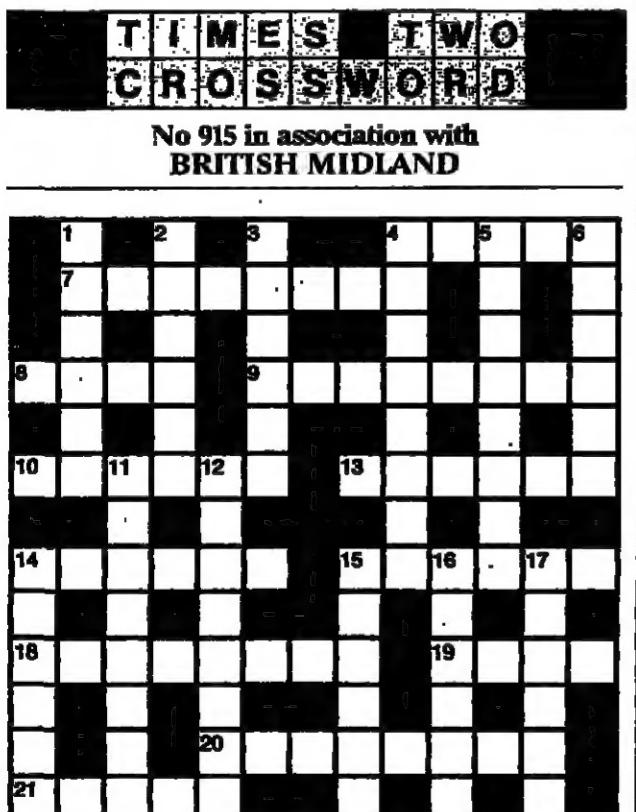
After losing at Old Trafford, where Collymore had a subdued match, that may seem a straightforward decision, but, if Liverpool are to play a typical game of containment and counter-attack, the power of Collymore's running will not be discarded lightly.

Liverpool are certainly aware of the importance of an away goal. "As we found out when we played Brondby last year, 0-0 is not always a good result away from home," Barnes said. "The idea is to go out there and get an away goal. Obviously, we don't want to go out and score and then lose 3-1, but an away goal is always vital in Europe."

Liverpool are unlikely to be exposed in the same way that Newcastle United were at Ferencvaros in Hungary on Tuesday. There may be different views about their system with three central defenders, but, provided that Dominic Matteo is fit, they are now looking better balanced than last year and, as well as Matteo, Phil Babb is also looking the part.

"I think it's the most consistent I've played for Liverpool," Babb said. "I've played well in the past, but I have been more steady this season and I am smiling all the time."

Beardsley owns up, page 47  
Grim for Aberdeen, page 47



ACROSS  
4 Up to now (2,3)  
7 Land of tiny people (Swift) (5)  
8 Blow on the wind (4)  
9 Walter →, 20C esp. children's poet (2,2,4)  
10 Language of the OT (6)  
13 Portray (6)  
14 Dark, gloomy (6)  
15 Constrictor snake (6)  
18 Reached (8)  
19 Western military alliance (1,1,1,1)  
20 Possessive case (8)  
21 Eur. city; husband chosen for Juliet (5)

DOWN  
1 Liquid shortfall in eg cask (6)  
2 Roofer; severe critic (6)  
3 Opening for light (6)  
4 Grand plan (8)  
5 Bizarrely unusual (8)  
6 Not long ago (6)  
11 Pour tea (2,6)  
12 Income from work (8)  
14 Big, good (meal) (4,2)  
15 Language mixture of eg traders (6)  
16 Real, table, game (6)  
17 The beginning (6)

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THE RUNNER-UP will receive a return  
ticket to anywhere on British Midland's  
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All flights are subject to availability.

Post your entry to Times Two Crossword, PO Box 6886, London E2 8SP to arrive by next Monday. The winners' names and sol-  
ution will appear on Wednesday.

Name/Address \_\_\_\_\_

**SOLUTION TO NO 914**  
ACROSS: 1 Rainbow 5 Dais 9 Diver 10 Realise 11 Right-hand  
man 12 Pre-war 13 Infamy 16 Overshadowed 19 Animist  
20 Debuc 21 Cite 22 Coracle  
DOWN: 1 Ride 2 Invoce 3 Birthday suit 4 Worthy 6 Axiom  
7 Sternly 8 Cannon fodder 12 Proseic 14 Alembic 15 Baltic  
17 Eviel 18 Ogle

# SPORT

THURSDAY OCTOBER 17 1996

## SHOOTING STARS 50

Adam back on  
track after  
years of trials



Hill was too exhausted to perform the ritual champagne celebrations yesterday

## Hill finds the bottle for a final photocall

BY OLIVER HOLT

THE biggest crowd since it used to be called Turnby, and people flocked there to watch hangings, gathered at Marble Arch, in central London, yesterday. This, though, was no kind of gallows entertainment. This was the latest stage in the announcement of Damon Hill, the Formula One world drivers' champion.

Hill, who had been reunited with his children on Tuesday night after his flight home from Tokyo, dutifully posed for ranks of photographers in front of the edifice that was originally intended to be the entrance gate to Buckingham Palace. He spread his arms wide when they asked him to, waved at passengers on the double-decker buses that were making their way round from Park Lane to the Edgware Road, and sat on a Williams-Renault with his wife, Georgie. "Come on, cuddle," the photographers shouted.

The first sign that Hill's strength is being sapped by the endless round of celebrations that have followed his victory in the Japanese Grand Prix on Sunday, which secured the title, came when he could not pop the cork of a magnum of champagne. A smaller bottle was pressed into service instead.

From Marble Arch, and an impromptu autograph-signing session for some of the hundreds who had turned up to watch and applaud, Hill headed down Oxford Street to Selfridge's and a press conference in the Premier Restaurant. "Good food in impeccable surroundings," it said. There is not much more that Hill can say now about how he feels after winning his first world championship, but he had a good try all the same.

"It is a bit like putting your feet up after Christmas dinner," Hill said. "I have not come down off this one yet. I am just looking forward to soaking this feeling up for a bit longer. I have not had much emotion."

## Rusedski's victory sets up Henman clash

BY OUR SPORTS STAFF

**TIM HENMAN** and Greg Rusedski are poised for their first confrontation this year at the Czech indoor tournament in Ostrava today. Great Britain's leading tennis players will meet in the second round after Rusedski defeated George Bastl, a qualifier from Switzerland, 6-4, 7-6 yesterday.

Henman, the British No 1, beat Nicklas Kulti, of Sweden,

on Monday, and will face

Rusedski for the first time

since he beat him 1-6, 6-3

in the final of the British

national championships in

Telford last November. At that

time, Rusedski was the British

No 1 and was expected to win.

Since then, the tables have

turned and Henman, ranked

20th in the world and seeded

No 7 for the Czech event, will

start as favourite.

However, Rusedski, whose world ranking slumped from an all-time high of 33 in January to 84 two weeks ago, has been in outstanding form during the past fortnight.

He began his recovery by

reaching the semi-final of the Heineken Classic in Singapore, a performance which ensured that his world ranking improved nine places to 75.

He then won his first ATP

Tour event since changing his allegiance from Canada to Britain last year when he beat

Martin Damni, of the Czech Republic, in the final of the

Peking Open at the weekend, a

victory which enabled him to climb a further 22 rungs up the ranking ladder to 53.

Sam Smith yesterday cele-  
brated her first win on home soil since she became the British No 1 a fortnight ago.

Smith defeated Sofia Parezas, of Portugal, 6-3, 6-3 in the first

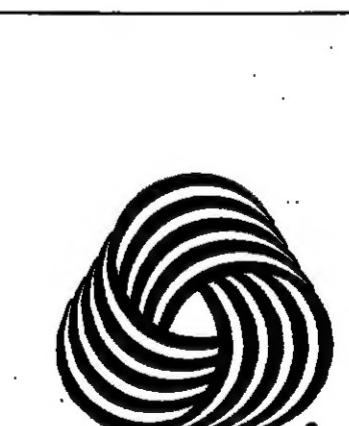
round of the Texaco Ladies Challenge at Cardiff and will

now face Eva Marancova, of the Czech Republic.

Clare Wood, deposed by

Smith as British No 1, will

meet the top seed, Elena Wagner, of Germany. Wagner beat Claire Taylor, of Oxfordshire, 6-2, 6-3. Smith and Wood will clash in the quarter-finals if they win their second-round matches today.



□ Pete Sampras made a successful start to his challenge for the Marlboro Hong Kong Championships yesterday, beating Grant Connell, of Canada, 6-4, 6-2 in silver group.

## Dancing into the danger zone

Injuries soar as competition in the ballroom heats up, Ruth Gledhill reveals

women as they spin, turn or

perform leg-kicks.

Dance-inflicted ailments in Blackpool included fractured arms and ribs, and a collarbone dislocated during the tango. Graham Miles, the first-aid consultant for dancers, said: "Because they are all trying to make the finals, they are putting everything into it and being injured as a result. The days of courtesy and floorcraft on the dancefloor have gone."

The casualty rate at the 44th Elsa Wells International, at the Brentwood Leisure Centre this week, is being cited as further evidence that ballroom dancing has developed into a sport comparable with rugby, football and athletics for the demands it makes in terms of stamina, fitness and competitiveness. In another recent competition, the Open British, at Blackpool, first-aiders treated 138 injured dancers over five days, a record for that event. Elsewhere, lacerations to the legs have been caused by the flashing high heels of the

Raju Arulanantham, the Canadian over-35 senior champion, who dances with his wife, Lorraine, saw his ankle swell up like a balloon after a rival kicked him accidentally during the cha-cha.

"I carried on dancing, but I could feel the foot swelling the shoe getting tighter," he said. Expert massage and a bag of ice left him fit to continue, however.

Some dancers also suffer stress-induced headaches and faintness because of nerves brought on by all-day competitions and the pressure to succeed.

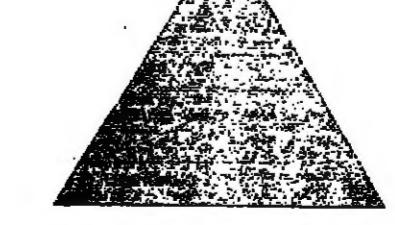
Rugby tops the sports injuries table, with football second and hockey third. About 6.4 million people in England need treatment for sports injuries each year, with 1.4 million taking an average of six days off work to recover.

Like most athletes, dancers will, as a rule, continue dancing through an injury, however, the adrenalin of a

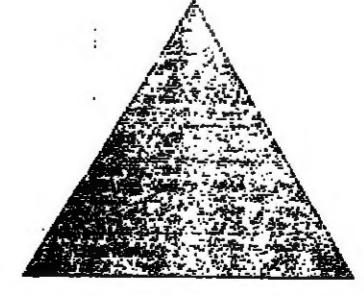
competition countering even severe pain. Miles, who dances with his wife, Liz, an aromatherapist, is employed as a first-aid specialist at most top dance championships. He began treating dancers two years ago when dancing in the senior rankings in a competition organised by Bill Phillips, the promoter, also at Brentwood. "We were dancing, and my wife saw a man go down," he said. "We carried on dancing, but nobody was helping him, so we stopped and rushed over."

The competitor had had a heart attack. Miles used his specialist skills and spent 20 minutes resuscitating him, eventually saving his life. Phillips has since made sure that Miles is on hand at most top events, and he is also used by Bobby Short, the promoter of the International, and others. "The dancers know me, so they might come to me early with a problem that they wouldn't take to a stranger," he said. This means that potential problems can sometimes be detected early.

Ballroom dancing is recognised provisionally as an Olympic sport. Full recognition is expected in June.



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